

# Dagon's Fall Before the ARK.

WRITTEN

Primarily, As a Testimony for the Lord, his Wisdom, Creation, Products of his Power, Useful and Necessary Knowledge, capacitating People for the Concerns of this Life.

Secondarily, As a Testimony against the Old Serpent, his Wisdom, which is Foolishness with God, his Arts, Inventions, Comedies, or Interludes, Tragedies, Lascivious Poems, Frivolous Fables, Spoiling Philosophy, taught in Christian Schools.

Wherein, as in a Glass, Teachers in Schools and Colledges may see their Concern, neither Christian nor Warrantable.

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By Thomas Lawson.

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*Qui novit utilia, non qui multa, sapiens habendus,*  
Orat. D. Rainoldi.

*Id verum, quod prius, prius, quod ab initio, ab initio,*  
*quod ab Apostolis.* Tertul.

*Adam nunquam è Beatitudinis Paradiso pulsus fuisset,*  
*nisi, Serpente Magistro, didicisset scire bonum & malum.* Cornel. Agrip. de Van. Scient.

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The Contents of the following Treatise.

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Chap. 2. Of the Rise ~~and~~ Progress of Serpentine Wisdom; that is, the Wisdom of this World.

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Chap. 6. Lastly, A few Queries soberly proposed to the Consideration of such as teach Heathen Authors in Christian Schools.



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# DAGON's Fall

## *Before the Ark.*

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### CHAP. I.

*Of Heavenly Wisdom, and her Children, being  
True and Divine Philosophers.*

There is a Wisdom, whose Merchandize transcends the Merchandize of Silver, whose Gain surmounts the Gain of the purest Gold, more precious than Rubies, than the Onyx, Sapphire, Chrystal, Coral, or Topaz of *Ethiopia*; her Ways are Ways of Pleasantness, all her Paths are Peace; she is a Tree of Life; by her Kings reign, and Princes decree Justice; her Fruit is better than Gold, her Revenue than choice Silver; she was from Everlasting, or ever the Earth was, before the Depths, before the Fountains abounding with Waters, before the Mountains were settled, before the Hills towered up, before the Curtain of the Heavens was prepared, before the Clouds

above were established, before the Sea had its decree, before the Foundation of the Earth was appointed, before the Rain, or pearly drops of Dew, before the Ice, and hoary Frost of Heaven, before the *Pleiades*, and the Bands of *Orion*, before *Mazzaroth*, *Arcturus*, and his Sons, before the Bottles of Heaven were poured out : In this Wisdom *Adam* was created, in Purity, Innocency, and Righteousness, a Noble Extract ; in this he had Dominion over the Fish of the Sea, over the Fowl of the Air, over the Cattle, over all the Earth, and over every Creeping Thing ; through the Vertue and Influence of this, he knew his Creator, and had an understanding of the Natures and Properties of the Creation, and gave Names to all Cattel, and to the Fowl of the Air, and to every Beast of the Field, and that significant Names.

Through this, *Adam* was all fair, through a Garment conferr'd upon him, out of the Wardrobe of Eternity ; while in the Love and Power of this, he was a true Divine Philosopher ; that is, a Lover of Wisdom, not tainted by the Intermixture of the Serpent, nor his ensnaring Inventions. ' The Living God (saith the Paraphrast on the *Samaritan Pentateuch*) ' formed *Adam*, and ' filled him with the Spirit of Wisdom and ' Knowledge ; that from him, as from a ' Fountain, all useful Arts and Sciences ' might

might flow unto his Posterity : For, besides the secret Vertues of Living Creatures, of Plants, of Stones, of Metals, of Minerals, he perfectly knew the Influences of Supernal Bodies, saith *Theoph. Gale*. And if *Adam* and his Posterity had persevered in that state of Heavenly Wisdom, Innocency and Sincerity, in which he was created, here had been no Defilements of Astrologers, Charmers, Consulters with Familiar Spirits, Diviners, Inchanters, Magicians, Necromancers, Observers of Times, Prognosticators, Soothsayers, Sorcerers, Witches, Wizards ; who all derive their Power, and foolish Infernal Knowledge, from those Lying Lips, which seduced *Adam* and *Eve* from the Royal Court of the Lord's Blessed Presence, into the dead Sea of Delusions, and wicked Estrangements from God.

Yea, I say, If *Adam* and his Posterity had kept their standing in Heavenly Wisdom's Dominion, we had had no Lascivious Poems, no Wanton Comedies, no Vain Tragedies, no Foolish Fables, no Bewitching Orations, no Spoiling Philosophy, no Pagan Ethicks, Physicks, or Metaphysicks, which are the insatuating Dregs of the Hellish Dead Sea, the Smoke of the Bottomless Pit, as hereafter may more fully be touched.

About the Tenth Generation after the Flood, *Abraham*, the Father of the Faithful,

grew up among the *Caldeans*, in the saving Knowledge of the Lord; he loved Heavenly Wisdom, and the Products thereof, the Creation; so was a true *Philosopher*: Thro' Faith he obtained a good Report; and among other things, this Record remains concerning him, *Shall I hide from Abraham*, saith the Lord, *the thing which I do, &c.* For I know him, that he will command his Children, and his Household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do Justice and Judgment, Gen. 18. 17, 18, 19. This was the Sum of *Abraham's* Doctrine to his Family; this he, and the faithful Patriarchs, taught; justifying Heavenly Wisdom, and the blessed Order of it: *Heathenism* they kept out, through the Shield of Faith; and who are of *Abraham*, they do the Works of *Abraham*, and shun *Heathenism*.

*Moses* grew up in the Knowledge of the Living God, and of the Creation; he loved the Wisdom that was from above, so was a true Divine Philosopher. *Clemens Alexandrinus* wrote of him, that he was a Divine and a Prophet.

Now if any alledge, That *Moses* was learned in all the Wisdom of the Egyptians, (that is, in prophane Arts and Sciences) and was mighty in Words and in Deeds, Acts 7. 22.

I answer, True it is, *Moses* was so learned; which Egyptian Learning (saith *Paræus*) was Pagan Mathematicks, Ethicks, Physicks, Meta-



Metaphysicks; a chief part whereof was Hieroglyphicks: But when he was to be concern'd for the Living God, to go his Message, see how his prophane Arts and Sciences, the *Egyptian Hieroglyphicks*, furthered him, he was mute, *Exod. 4. 10, 11, 12.* He said to the Lord, *O my Lord, I am not Eloquent*: The Lord said unto him, *Now therefore go, and I will be with thy Mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.* Here he is drawn from the dirty Puddle of prophane Arts and Sciences, *Egyptian* Wisdom, Pagan Metaphysicks, Hieroglyphicks: In a word, from those Lying Lips, which deceived *Adam* and *Eve*, and all the Inventions thereof, even to the Mouth of God, the Well-spring of pure Wisdom, savoury Knowledge, and sound Understanding. Thus *Moses*, being brought to that Mouth which taught *Adam* and *Eve* in the State of Innocency, he streamed out Heavenly Eloquence, saying, *My Doctrine shall drop as the Rain, my Speech shall distil as the Dew, as the small Rain upon the tender Herb, and as the Showers upon the Grass, Deut. 32. 2.* No prophane Arts nor Sciences, no *Egyptian* Mathematicks, no Hieroglyphicks, no Pagan Ethicks, Physicks, or Metaphysicks, dropped out of his Mouth.

Though *Moses* was Excellent in the Wisdom of the *Egyptians*, yet he hath left us nothing thereof in Writing, nor encouraged  
any

any to learn the same: *Ambrose* gives the Reason of this, because he had received God's Spirit, and Heavenly Wisdom thereby; so, as God's Servant was faithful in all his House, he prefer'd Heavenly Truth before vain Earthly Philosophy, and concern'd himself only in things, whose tendency were to the furtherance of Faith. *Trapp* on the *Acts*.

Further, *Moses* said unto *Israel*, *Exod.* 23. 13. *In all things that I have said unto you, be circumspect, and make no mention of the names of other gods, neither let it be heard out of thy mouth.* He preached not up *Egyptian Learning*, nor the *Egyptian Gods*, nor any *Gods of the Heathen*; but to raze the Memorial of them from off the face of the Earth, saying, *Make no mention of the names of other gods.* But Schools and Colledges shew forth another Spirit, ringing with the names of *Mars*, *Bacchus*, *Apollo*, and multitudes more, which I forbear to mention.

Furthermore, *Moses*, speaking of the Statutes, Judgments, and Commandments of the Lord, received from Heaven, for the Edification of *Israel*, said, *Ye shall teach them to your Children; when thou sittest in thine house, when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, when thou risest up,* *Deut.* 11. 19. Here was Heavenly Wisdom, Statutes, Judgments and Commandments, received from the Mouth of Eternity, to be taught to Children;

Children; not *Egyptian* Mathematicks, Hieroglyphicks, Ethicks, Physicks, Metaphysicks, not Lascivious Poems, Comedies, Tragedies, Fables, Spoiling Philosophy, wherewith Schools and Colledges, though professing Christianity and Reformation; now abound.

Further, *Moses* said to *Israel*, *When thou art come into the Land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the Abominations of those Nations*, Deut. 18. 9. Now it is sealed in my inward parts, that Heathen Poems, Pagan Philosophy, Foolish Comedies, Tragedies, Fables, &c. taught in the Schools of *Christendom*, are Abomination in the sight of the Lord, though of high esteem among Men, and driven as it were *Vi & Armis*, by Force of Arms, into tender Years.

*Joshua* grew up in the pure Knowledge of the Lord, received Heavenly Wisdom, walked in it, prized it above the Gold of *Ophir*, so was a true Philosopher; God promised to be with him, as he was with *Moses*, Josh. 1. 5. he taught *Israel* not to be defiled with the Abomination of the *Heathen*, nor to make mention of the *Names of their Gods*, Josh. 23. So the Serpent and his Inventions he fenced out. Schools and Colledges, now professing Christianity, Scriptures, and the Gospel, teaching the abominable Inventions of the *Heathen*, are

not come to *Moses*, who forbad these things, Death reigns there.

'I am easie to perswade (saith *Theophilus Gale*) 'that the Old *Egyptians* learned many  
 • ' things of *Joseph*, concerning the Soul, and  
 • ' the Originality, Immateriality, Immorta-  
 • ' lity, and State of it after Death: And not  
 only from him, but from the Patriarchs,  
 and from the Writings of *Moses*, they re-  
 ceived many things, which they stained  
 with the Excrements of their own Inven-  
 tions, as 'tis recorded. As for Saving  
 Knowledge, Pure Understanding, Sound  
 Judgment, these are derived from the Lord,  
 the Well-spring of Life. After that *Joseph*  
 had given *Pharaoh* advice, concerning the  
 ensuing Famine, and other things, *Pharaoh*  
 prized him above all the Wise Men of  
*Egypt*, Sorcerers, Magicians, Inchanters,  
 saying, *Can we find such a one as this is, a*  
*Man in whom the Spirit of God is?* Further,  
 he said unto *Joseph*, *In as much as God hath*  
*shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet*  
*and wise as thou art,* Gen. 41. 38, 39. Thus  
 the Wisdom and Discretion received from  
 the Mouth of God, was preferr'd before  
 Wisdom received otherwise.

*Bexaleel* was filled with the Spirit of God,  
 in Wisdom, in Understanding, and in Know-  
 ledge, and in all manner of Workmanship,  
 to work in Gold, and in Silver, and in Brasse,  
 in cutting of Stones, in carving of Timber,  
 for



for the building of the Tabernacle, *Exod. 31*. Thus he was qualified from Heaven, without Ethnick Education, so was a true Philosopher; implying, that such as under the Evangelical Dispensation, are appointed for the Building up of the Living Tabernacle, Sons or Daughters, their Qualification for that Work is from Heaven, and not from below.

*Solomon*, the Lord gave unto him a wise and understanding Heart, whereby he knew the Lord, and had great understanding in the Lord's Creation, without Ethnick Education, he was a true Philosopher, *1 Kings 3. 12*. He builded the Temple, and overlaid it within with pure Gold, *1 Kings 6*. What implies this? But that such as under the Gospel-Ministration, are prepared for the building up of the Spiritual Temple, be they Sons or Daughters, their Preparation is of the Lord; and that he had a clear Understanding of the Lord's Creation, is demonstrable from Scripture Records; for he spake of Trees, from the Cedar-Tree that is in *Lebanon*, even unto the *Hyssop* that springeth out of the Wall; he spake also of *Beasts*, and of *Fowles*, and of *Creeping Things*, and of *Fishes*, *1 Kings 1*. His Wisdom excelled all the Wisdom of the *East-Country*, and all the Wisdom of *Egypt*; so that the Queen of the South, whom the *Ethiopian* Chronicles call *Makeda*,

*Aeda*, came from the uttermost parts of the Earth, to hear the Wisdom of *Solomon*; who was so taken with the Heavenly Wisdom that dropped out of his Mouth, that she could have been content to have changed her Throne for his Foot-stool; he fed her not with Ethnick Serpentine Wisdom, but with what was Spiritual and Divine. *Trapp* on *Mat.* 12.

*Jehoshaphat* taught no Pagan Philosophy, no Heathenism, but the perfect Law and pure Statutes of the Lord; the Lord was with him, 2 *Chron.* 17.

*Ezra* caused no Pagan Philosophy, no Heathenism, no fallen Wisdom, to be taught in *Israel*, to Old to Young; but going from *Babylon* to *Jerusalem*, the good Hand of God being upon him, he sought the Law of the Lord, and taught the Statutes and Judgments of the Lord in *Israel*, *Ezra* 7. Now who neglects the Wisdom from Above, and propagate Earthly Serpentine Wisdom, which is from Below, such are in *Babylon*, not come to the *Jerusalem*, which is Above.

*Job*, of the Land of *Uz*, perfect and upright, fearing God, and eschewing Evil, he knew that his Redeemer lived, in the Wisdom of his Redeemer; he knew the Lord, and saw much into the Creation of the Lord, so was a true and divine Philosopher. That he was wise in the Creation, it appears,

pears, he spake of Thunder, of Vapours, of Clouds, of Rain, of Snow, of Hail, of the Sea, of Fountains, of Metals, as Gold, Silver, Iron, Brass, of Stones, of precious Stones, of subterraneous Fire, of Stars, of living Creatures, of Earthquakes, of *Arcturus*, *Orion*, and the *Pleiades*, of the Sun, of the Heavens, &c.

*Asaph* in the wisdom of God, desired that the pure Statutes and Judgments of the Lord, might be taught to Children, not the ways of the Heathen, *Psal.* 58. 5, 6, 7. he made Covenant with *Jacob*, and gave *Israel* a Law, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their Children, that their posterity might know it, and the Children which were yet unborn.

*Isaiab* seasoned with the inspiration of the Almighty, prized the wisdom from above ; speaking of the Plow-man, he said, *God doth instruct him to discretion, and doth teach him*, *Isa.* 28. So the Plow-man that is center'd in the fear of the Lord, is taught of the Lord discretion in his calling, without Heathen education. Yea, and prophesying of the glory of the Evangelical dispensation, he testified thus, *They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea*, *Isa.* 11. 9. Mark, here the knowledge of the Lord is preach'd up, that knowledge which he teaches,

teaches, which he accepts of: thus shuts out the knowledge and wisdom of this world, brought in by the old Serpent, the god of this world.

The living God gave knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom, unto *Daniel*, *Shadrach*, *Meshach*, and *Abednego*; and *Daniel* had understanding in all Visions and Dreams; and this was by the teaching of the Lord, without recourse to Ethnick study and education, *Dan.* 1. the King found them ten times wiser than all his Magicians and Astrologers.

*What is the Chaff to the Wheat, saith the Lord?* Jer. 23. 28. All Products of the Serpent, all Lascivious Poems, Wanton Comedies, Vain Tragedies, Frivolous Fables, Spoiling Philosophy, the Wisdom of the World, which is Foolishness with God; these are but as Chaff, to be scattered by Christ's Fan.

The *Jews*, under the *Mosaical Dispensation*, had Schools in every City and Province, built upon Hills, as Writers tell us; there is mention of the Hill *Moreb*, that is, the Hill of the Teacher, *Judg.* 7. 1. In these, while they kept the Charge of the Lord, there was nothing taught but the Knowledge of the Lord, and of his Creation: In these (saith *Theophilus Gale*) they taught the *Priests* and *Levites* their Offices, being chosen of God thereunto.

In



In every Age and Generation, such as were truly made alive unto God, they held out the Wisdom of God, as the only Soul-wishing Treasure; and bare Testimony against the Wisdom of the Flesh, pernicious as the Poyson of Asps.

*The Fear of the Lord (saith Solomon) is the beginning of Wisdom; and the Knowledge of the Holy, is Understanding, Prov. 9. 10.* And who come not to the beginning of Wisdom, the Fear of the Lord, such are strangers to Heavenly Wisdom, and to the precious Effects thereof. Now, as for Lascivious Poems, Foolish Comedies, Vain Tragedies, Frivolous Fables, Bewitching Orations, Spoiling Philosophy, taught in Christian Schools; these proceeded from Men not center'd in the Fear of the Lord, the same is Foolishness with God. *The Law of thy Mouth (said the Man of God) is dearer unto me than Thousands of Gold and Silver:* Here Wisdom, Knowledge, Understanding, and Sound Judgment, is prefer'd before Earthly Treasures; Mark this, it was the Law of the Mouth of the Lord, that he thus prized; not Earthly, Sensual, and Devilish Wisdom, the Muddy and Poysonous Streams of the Serpent.

We read of certain *Libertines, Cyrenians, Alexandrians, Cilicians and Asians*, puff'd up with the Breath of the Serpent's Bellows; these, in the Wisdom of the Flesh, disputed with

with *Stephen*, who was in the Wisdom of the Spirit, *and they were not able to resist the Wisdom and the Spirit by which he spake*, Acts 6. 9, 10. *Paul* held out nothing but Christ. And the same Serpentine Wisdom, in Instruments of all sorts, opposes and gainsays the Inbreakings of Heavenly Wisdom, in this our Age; and many Witnesses, raised out of the Dust, notwithstanding on their Feet in the Dominion of Truth, know, that the Lord is now at work, and that the Mystery of Iniquity must be cast out; not by outward Sword, Battle, Ax, or any Instruments of War, but by the Breath of the Lord's Mouth, and by the Brightness of his Coming.

*Paul*, tho' he was Profound in Natural Parts, Abilities, and Acquired Accomplishments; yet when Christ was revealed in him, the Teacher of Heavenly Wisdom, at *Rome*, as at other places, he Preached the Kingdom of God, and the things which concerned the Lord Jesus, and plentiful Redemption in him; not one word of Pagan Philosophy, Acts 28. 30, 31.

Further, *Paul*, who had the Mind of Christ, he, at *Corinth*, a City abounding with Philosophers and Orators, preached up the Wisdom of God, and bare Record against the Wisdom of the Flesh, Heathen Philosophy; saying, *We speak Wisdom among them that are perfect; yet not the Wisdom of this*

*this World, nor of the Princes of this World, which comes to nought. Further saith he, Which things also we speak, not in the Words which Man's Wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth, 1 Cor. 1. & 2. 6, 13.*

Further, Paul, speaking of Christ, said, *In him are hid all the Treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge, Col. 2. 3.* Out of Christ then, there is no true Wisdom, or solid Comfort to be found: The Depth saith, *It is not in me*; the World's Wizards cannot help any to it, *Jer. 8. 9. Lo, they have rejected the Word of the Lord, and what Wisdom is in them?* True it is, who rejected the Indwelling Word of Faith, of Patience, of Reconciliation, of Heavenly Wisdom, there is no Wisdom in them, but unprofitable Dross of Foolishness.

Now, seeing all the Treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge are in Christ, no part of this Treasure is left out, to enrich Heathen Philosophy, which the Gospel casts out, as a sandy, dry, barren, desolate and unprofitable thing: Seeing these Treasures, all these Treasures, are in Christ, the same then are to be sought of, and in Christ; not as *Aristotle, Plato*, or any other of the World's Philosophers, being but broken Cisterns, not holding the Water of Life. *Solomon* spoke feelingly, *The Lord gives Wisdom, out of his Mouth comes Knowledge and Understanding, Prov. 2. 6.*

While

While *Adam* stood to the Lord's Teaching, he received the Treasures of Heavenly Wisdom, Sound Knowledge and Understanding, Peace, Joy and Consolation, as a Stream; but turning aside to the Serpent's Teaching, to his Mouth, he left his Dominion in the Lord, his Blessed State; and out of the Serpent's Mouth proceeded all Wickedness, all Fleshly Wisdom, all Frivolous Arts and Sciences now taught in Christian Schools (so called.) So, who run to Pagan Philosophers, as *Aristotle*, *Plato*, or any Lascivious Poet, Comedian, Tragedian, they revolt from Christ, the Treasury of Heavenly Wisdom, who gives Eternal Life, and an Everlasting Inheritance, and run a Whoring after fallen Wisdom, so was guilty of *Israel's Sin*, Jer. 2. 13. *Paul* was first brought up at the Feet of *Gamaliel*, born in *Tarsus*, that had read *Aratus*, *Meander*, and *Epimanides*, Authors, is clear by what he cited; but while he stood in the Ethnick Mind, he was a grand Persecutor, Idolized his Ethnick Education; but Christ being revealed in him, the Store-House of Heavenly Wisdom, Knowledge and Understanding, then he accounted Ethnick Learning as *Dung and Dross*, Phil. 3. 7, 8. All his idolized, magnified, and highly prized Arts, Parts and Attainments of fallen Wisdom, he accounted but as *Dung*, Wisdom from above being revealed. The  
Lord



Lord called *Paul*, Wise in Naturals, and many that were Ignorant thereof, to Preach the Everlasting Gospel.

Further, *Paul*, in the Wisdom from above, at the University of *Athens*, he reproved their Idolatry, Superstition and Heathenism: He taught nothing but the *Living God*, and *Christ Jesus*, Acts 17. In the Comprehending Life, he saw these Philosophers, Epicureans, Stoicks, and withstood them; but they, in the gloomy Region of *Heathenism*, saw not him, nor the Heavenly Wisdom that he Preached, so called him a *Babbler*; yet he fought not in vain, but conquered several, so prevailed, that many renounced their Pagan Philosophy, and Curious Artists burned their Books of Earthly Satanical Wisdom. Thus *Paul*, in the Armour of Righteousness, disarmed these Pagan Philosophers, the Devil's Champions, and brought them to be *Sion's* Converts, to receive her Armour, Acts 19.

*James*, one of the Lord's Worthies, writing to the Twelve Tribes scattered, said, *If any of you lack Wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all Men liberally*, James 1. 5. He commends the Ignorant to the Lord, not to *Aristotle*, *Plato*, nor to any other Pagan Philosopher.

Further, *James*, the Apostle of the Lamb, describing the Nature and Quality of Heavenly Wisdom, said, *The Wisdom that is from above,*

*above, is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, easie to be intreated, full of Mercy and good Fruits, without Partiality, and without Hypocrisie, Jam. 3. 17.* Now no other Wisdom than this, was taught in the Primitive Times, in Christian Churches and Schools, while the Purifying and Victory-giving Faith was kept: The Wisdom of the World was preached against, as Foolishness with God. Now, whoever refuses Wisdom, Knowledge and Understanding at the Mouth of the Lord; such learn Foolishness, Ignorance, Carnal Wisdom and Wickedness, at the Mouth of the Serpent, and his Wisdom; nothing that's good prospers under it.

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## C H A P. II.

*Of the Rise and Progress of Serpentine Wisdom; that is, the Wisdom of this World.*

**A** Dam was created a Noble Plant, a Blessed Disciple, while obedient to the Teaching of his Creator: Among many Pure, Heavenly, Sound, Savoury and Wholsome Lessons, this was one, *Not to eat of, nor touch the forbidden Tree, lest they die.* Now the Serpent, filled with Subtilty, laboured, First, to beget Eve into a questioning of the Verity of God's Heavenly Doctrine;

Doctrines; saying, Yea, hath God said, *Ye shall not eat of every Tree of the Garden.* Secondly, The Serpent expressly contradicted God's Heavenly Doctrine, saying, *Ye shall not surely die.* Thirdly, The Serpent informed Eve, that by touching and eating of that Tree, an advantage should accrue thereby to them; *Ye shall be as Gods, knowing Good and Evil,* Gen. 3. The Serpent became prevalent, God's Teaching was rejected, the Serpent's deadly Teachings and Insinuations, Charms and Inchantments, were entertained; through this Compliance, the Serpent got the Chair, (as I may say) and became Teacher; then, according to the Lord's Heavenly Word, Death entered in upon them, even as a Consumption seizes upon a Man's Body gradually; in this Compliance with the Serpent, a Seed of Enmity was sown in Man's Heart, and from that Seed sprung another World, even a World of Wickedness, favouring of the Nature of the Hellish Seedsman; *Adam* had never been driven out of the Paradise of Blessedness, but that through the Serpent being his Teacher, he learned to *know Good and Evil*, (saith *Cornelius Agrippa*, of the Vanity of Sciences.)

While Man kept his Station in the Vertue of the Ancient of Days, he Lived, Moved, and had his Being in him; he Thought, Spake, and Acted in him; Yea, his Thoughts,

Thoughts, Words and Actions, were the Thoughts, Words and Actions of God, in him and through him; here was a Blessed Sabbath: Christ said unto his Disciples, travelling unto the pleasant Valley of *Adam's* Innocency, *It is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you,* Mat. 10. Yea, and Peter, an Apostle of the Lamb, bare Record; saying, *Holy Men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost,* 2 Pet. 1. 21. So that all the Holy Patriarchs, Prophets, Apostles, Primitive Christians, Children of Light, Children of the Day, who Thought, Spake and Acted in and through the Vertue of the Lord's Presence in them, their Language was the Language of the Lord; 'tis so now, of what Nation, Kingdom, or Country soever such be; yet they are Living Witnesses of that Language promised by the Lord, who said, *I will turn to the People a pure Language, that they may call upon the Name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent,* Zeph. 3. 9.

In like manner *Adam*, back-sliden from the Lord, and complying with the Old Serpent, and deriving the ground of his Thoughts, Words and Works, from the miry Lake of his Power, and his Posterity center'd in the gloomy Region of the same; what proceeds from this Hellish Conjunction, is the Language of the Old Serpent,



Serpent, the Language of the Beast, all Wanton Poets, Comedians, Tragedians, Painted Orators, Pagan Philosophers, are here found. Thus of *Beth-el*, that is, the House of God, Man became *Beth-aven*, that is, a House of Iniquity and Vanity.

Thus the Serpent prevailing, and his Kingdom increasing, his Hellish Pills (as I may say) being swallowed, Man was wrought out of his right Course and Disposition; hence issued a numberless number of Internal Diseases.

As in a Corporal Imposthume, purulent and foul Matter is gathered together in some part of the Body; so, through joyning with the Serpent, purulent and foul Matter of Sin, Iniquity, Transgression, Satanical Arts and Inventions are brought forth, whereby the Sons and Daughters of Men are defiled.

As in the External Atrophy or Consumption, the Body, through the want of due and convenient Nutriment, by little and little, pines away; so, through complying with the Serpent, the Mouth of Faith came, and comes to be shut, which receives Spiritual Nourishment; which not being received, Spiritual Leanness steps, and steps in, yea, a Spiritual Consumption.

As in a Corporal Lethargy, there is an unsatiable propensity to Sleepiness, Drowsiness, and Forgetfulness; so *Adam*, not keeping

keeping his Heavenly Dominion in his Maker, but attending to the Evil One, was thereby brought into a Spiritual Lethargy, into a sleepy, drowsie, and forgetful State: This was *Israel's*, which occasioned the Lord's Complaint, *My People have forgotten me days without number*, Jer. 2. 32.

As through a depraved Appetite, wholesome Nourishment is refused, non-convenient, unprofitable, and noxious things are desired; even so the Mind being carnalized, Heavenly Wisdom, Bread of Life, Water of Life, Honey out of the Rock, the Food of the Soul, is loathed; and Spoiling Philosophy, Satanical Arts, Parts and Endowments; in a word, the Wisdom that is from below, is unsatiably fought after.

*Adam*, entring the barren Borders of Satanism, from a Hellish Lake, in the increase of that Kingdom, collected, gushed out a muddy Stream of Diabolical Arts, Pernicious Inventions, and Artists: Hence came the Ungodly Astrologers, who, from the Observation of the Heavens, take upon them to foretel what Good or Evil shall befall Men, States, Persons, People; so to determine things of future Contingence.

Thence crawled out Charms, who use Verses, Words, Ceremonies, Spells, to produce their desired ends; as, to heal or hurt People, Young or Old.

Hence

Hence crawled out Diviners, Wizards, who by a diabolical Spirit take upon them to Presage or Foretel things to come.

Hence crawled out Observers of Times, who Superstitiously make difference of Days and Times, as Good or Bad, Lucky or Unlucky, as they say, for the doing of such a Work, or undertaking a Journey, or appointing Times for the doing of Things.

Hence crawled out the Consulters of Familiar Spirits; this was *Saul's* Sin, who sought to a Woman that had a Familiar Spirit.

Hence crawled out Inchanters, who by observing the Events of Things, gather Signs of good or evil Luck (as they say) to themselves or others; and who by secret Slights and Juglings, deceive or delude the Eye-sight.

Hence crawled out Witches, Sorcerers, having dealings with the Devil by Compact or Confederacy, changing any thing before the Sight, by a Diabolical Power.

Hence crawled out Necromancers, speaking to the Dead, or to the Devil in the form of the Dead, making inquiry of the same, as *Saul* did.

Hence crawled out the Magicians, who through Covenant with Satan, is skill'd in Magick Art.

Hence sprung in the Monthly Prognosticators, taking upon them to Foretel the Occurrences of each Month.

Hence crawled out Southsayers, who from the Observation of the Skie, or Flight of Birds, take upon them to Foretel Things to come.

Hence came in Stargazers, pretending Knowledge of future Events, by the Observation of the Courses and Conjunction of the Stars ; these Artists were first found among the *Heathens*, after crept into *Israel*, tho' expressly forbidden by the Lord, and are found also, as it is said, among the Professors of Christianity.

The Idolatrous *Egyptians* were great practitioners of Divination, who (as Writers affirm) first of all derived their Divination from the four Elements.

Some Divined from the Observation of Fire ; hence *Pyromancy*.

Some Divined by the Air ; hence *Aeromancy*.

Some Divined by Water ; hence *Hydromancy*.

Some Divined by the Earth ; hence *Geomancy*.

After this, Wickedness and Satanical Skill increasing, a further progress was made : For,

Some Divined by Fish ; hence *Ichthomancy*.

Some



Some Divined by Herbs ; hence *Botanomancy*.

Some Divined by Figs ; hence *Sycomancy*.

Some Divined by Eggs ; hence *Ovomancy*.

Some Divined by Rods ; hence *Rabdomancy*.

Some by the crowing of Cocks ; hence *Alectrimancy*.

Some by She-Goats ; hence *Aigomancy*.

Some Divined by Dreams ; hence *Oneiromancy*.

Some Divined by Incense ; hence *Libanomancy*.

Some by Water in a Bason ; hence *Licanomancy*.

Some Divined by Smoke ; hence *Capnomancy*.

Some Divined by the Bay-tree ; hence *Daphnomancy*.

Some Divined by Wax ; hence *Ceromancy*.

Some by the Lines of the Hands ; hence *Chiromancy*.

Some Divined by Sieve and Shears ; hence *Cosciomancy*.

This kind of Divination is ( as 'tis said ) much in use now in the northern Parts, by the frequenters of Horse-Courses and Foot-Races.

Some Divined by an Ax ; hence *Axinomancy*.

Some Divined by Lots; hence *Cleromancy*.

Some by the Inspection of Flower; hence *Alphitomancy*.

Some Divined and gave Answers out of their Bellies; hence *Gastromancy*.

Some Divined by the Observation of Birds; some by the Entrails of Beasts; some of these (if not many) are crept in among the Professors of Christianity. *Solomon* knew what he said, when he said, *God made Man Upright, but he hath found out many Inventions*, Eccles. 7.

From the very same ground issued in Idolatry, Superstition, damnable Heresies, pernicious Schisms, strong Delusions, perverse Disputings, vagrant and wandring Desires, fruitless Janglings, inconvenient Jestings, sinful Oppositions of Sciences, enchanting Orations, feigned Purgatory, dreamed of by *Plato* the Philosopher, and *Virgil* the Heathen Poet, defended by many in the Apostacy.

Thus you see the Wisdom of God being rejected, and the Wisdom of the Old Serpent, and his Teaching being entertained, What Hellish Artists and Arts? What Ungodly and Unlawful Inventions? What Strange and Soul-destroying Doctrines are crept into the World? What an Eclipse is come upon the Sons and Daughters of Men? But the Sun of Righteousness is Risen,  
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and Rising, with an effectual healing Vertue, whereby the foggy exhalation of Sin, Iniquity and Transgression, of wicked Arts, and frivolous Inventions, shall be scourged away.

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### C H A P. III.

*Of the Rise and Progress of Pagan Philosophy; Worldly Wisdom, crept in among the Professors of Christianity; and Testimonies of Holy Men of God against the same.*

Pagans of several Nations, desirous of Wisdom, to some scraps of *Moses*, relating to Morals, Naturals, and Supernaturals, added the corrupt Ingredients of their own Inventions and Imaginations; so patch up their Ethicks, Physicks, and Metaphysicks; so triumphed in the Splendor of their Wisdom, and gained great Esteem through the same, and were (as I may say) pointed at by the Fingers of others, and were called *Magi*, that is, *Wise Men*: Whatsoever (saith *Andrew Sympson*) *Orpheus*, *Homer*, *Solon*, *Pythagoras*, *Plato*, and other Grecians, Philosophers, Poets, Historians, have left on Record, concerning God and Divine Things, they took all out of the Books of *Moses*; whereunto they added the Intermixture of their own

Inventions and Imaginations, depraved and wrested the same, *August. de Civit. Dei*, to say the best Rabbins, and Philosophers, saith *Trapp*; *sunt bona mista malis, sunt mala mista bonis*; that is to say, In them Good is mixed with Evil, and Evil with Good.

The Greeks, through this Py-bal Wisdom, were called *Sophoi*; that is, *Wise Men*. Now *Pythagoras* refused that Title, as too Ambitious, and peculiar to *Ens Entium*, the Being of Beings, God alone; and in way of Modesty, he called himself *Philosophos*, that is, a Lover of Wisdom; which Title *Socrates*, *Plato*, and others, assumed; in imitation of these Greeks, the Romans called such *Philosophy*; and in imitation of the Romans, in the English Orthography, such are called *Philosophers*, that is, Lovers of Wisdom: Hence came the Philosophy of the Egyptians, Phenicians, Caldeans, Phrygi-ans, Lybians, Ethiopians, Scythians, Thracians, Persians, Indians, Brachmans, Spaniards, Italians, Greeks, Druides, of *Pythagoras*, *Socrates*, *Plato*, *Aristotle*, of the Cynicks, Stoicks, Scepticks, Epicureans; these, and many others, received their Philosophy from the writings of *Moses*, by them depraved and wrested, adding the Dregs of their own Opinions, Inventions and Imaginations; they received of these things also one from another.

And



And of the Agreement, or rather Disagreement, of the Pagan Philosophers among themselves, Writers are not silent; for not being content with Logomachy, that is, Verbal Altercation; they fell at length to Dagger-drawing one against another, *Johan. Franc. Pic. Mirand.*

Of the absurd Opinions of Pagan Philosophers, as of their Magick South-sayings, Conjurings, Casting of Nativities, their Doctrine of the World's Eternity, of the Soul's Mortality, of the Transmigration of the Soul from one Body into another, of like Temperament and Quality, I forbear further to particularize.

How Pagan Philosophy, Arts and Languages, called *Handmaids to Divinity*, have been and are courted, embraced and entertained, Heavenly Wisdom, the *Mistress*, hath been and is slighted, *the Wise in Heart understand.* The Egyptians (saith *Theophilus Gale*) so pursued the Study of the Mathematicks, that the Title of *Prophet*, *Priest*, or *Wise Man*, was allowed to none, but such as were profoundly instructed therein before. Now how Spoiling Philosophy, Tongues, Ethnick Arts, Natural Endowments and Qualifications, are doted upon, among the Professors of *Christianity*, is evident; in that, who without these Qualifications, are fitted by the Lord for the Work of the Ministry, they are branded as Hereticks, and persecuted. It

It was a Saying of Solomon, *Take away the Dross from the Silver, and there shall come forth a Vessel for the Finer*, Prov. 25. 4. Now if the intermixture of Paganism, Spoiling Philosophy, Satanical Arts; in a word, the Wisdom of the Flesh, which is Foolishness with God, were scoured away, and Heavenly Wisdom in its primitive Purity in Schools and Churches were restored; happy would the Nation be, which in measure was attempted; for in the School of *Alexandria*, an *Eclectic Sect* flourished, so called, because it Selected and Picked out the choice parts of Philosophy, out of all Sects: This laudable Attempt was undertaken by Men accounted Eminent, *Potamon*, *Plutarch*, *Ammonius*, and other Philosophers, with what issue and success, a Conclusion may be drawn: For that so much of the Dross of Satanical Art, Carnal Reason, Inventions and Imagination remains, as that it yet remains Spoiling Philosophy; *Corruptio optimi fit pessima*, that is, Best things corrupted become the worst. *Theophilus Gale* advises well, That all the Placets, or Opinions of Philosophers, should be brought to be tried by the Holy Scriptures, that there it may appear, what should be embraced, and what should be rejected.

Man, in the Beauty of his Innocency, was to eye the Lord, and in his Spirit,  
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the Creation, the Products of the Lord's Power and Wisdom; for all serious, solid, sound and justifiable Knowledge, relates to the Essentiality of God, and to the Creation, the Products of his Power, and to useful and necessary Concerns: Herein appears True Wisdom, Primitive Philosophy. *Plato*, though an Ethnick, through a Divine Spark, or through the Writings of *Moses*, in that Spark, boldly and truly called the Knowledge of God the True Philosophy: How (saith *Epaminondas*) can God be the Author of all Good, if he be not the Author of the chiefest Good, that is, Wisdom?

The Serpent being prevalent, disjoynted, dislocated; that is, wrested Man out of his Blessed State, and center'd him in his own Power; whence issued into the World a muddy stream of Earthly Wisdom, Inventions, and Idolatry: The Posterity of *Noah*, (saith *Theophilus Gale*) degenerating from the pure Philosophy, that is, Wisdom of the Patriarchs, plunged into the Bottomless Pit of Diabolical Astrology and Idolatry; for in their Contemplation of Cœlestial Bodies, the feeling of the Creator being lost, they were first of all hurried to the Admiration of them, afterwards to the Adoration of them: So those glorious Creature, being lifted up into the Throne of the Creator, became the Object  
E. of

of monstrous Idolatry, *Rom. 1. 21. Deut. 4. 19. Job 21. 26, 27.*

Geographers affirm, That the Valley, in which *Sodom* and *Gomorrab* were built, was full of saltish and bituminous Pits; the Lake *Asphaltites*, called also *Mare Mortuum*, that is, the Dead Sea; because the very Fish cannot live in its foul gross Waters; yea, and Birds flying over it, were smothered and killed by its Exhalations: *Adam*, as created of the Lord, was a fruitful Valley, plentiful in fragrant, odorous, aromatical, balsamical Fruits, shewing forth the Regency of the Lamb's Life in him; closing with the deadly Whispers of the Serpent, a muddy Lake (as I may say) gushed into the World, whose Exhalations are pernicious; this may spiritually be called the Dead Sea: None can live to God, to Righteousness, in that which the Devil brings in; in the putrid or rotten Stock, old *Adam*, all die; in Christ is Life.

*Object.* We read Philosophers, because many good moral Sayings are in them; and we learn Natural Arts, to qualifie and enable us for the understanding of Heavenly Things.

*Ans.* 'Tis recorded in Scripture, That Christ is the true Light, that lighteth every Man that cometh into the World, John 1. 9. Pagan Philosophers, as well as others; I (said Du Hamel) assent unto the Platonists, that Men's Minds are Enlightened with a Divine



Divine Light: So every Man hath in himself the ground of Mortality; which Man turning from within, and fetching in from without, he continues in Clouds of Dark-ness, and an Eclipse in the World of his Heart; what the Philosophers spoke from that, is sound and good: But through a non-perseverance in it, intermixtures entered in; and what proceeded from the Mind thus carnalized, was Spoiling Philosophy; *Corruptio optimi fit pessima*, as before. Yea, and the same *John* bare Record, saying, *The Light shined in Darkness, and the Darkness comprehended it not*, *John* 1. 5. This non-comprehension of Pagan Philosophers, as well as of others, so far prevailed, that they could in no wise comprehend the Spark of Divine Light, which shined in the Darkness of their Hearts, but unjustly and wickedly resisted, restrained, and opposed the same, *Rom.* 1. 18, 19, &c.

And Natural Arts, Parts, Endowments, Languages, Accomplishments, cannot reveal the Knowledge of Heavenly Things: *Canst thou (said Zophar) by searching find out God? Job* 11. 7, &c. *No Man knows the Father, save the Son, and he to whom the Son reveals him*, *Mat.* 11. 27. And *Paul*, who was Eminent in Tongues, in Natural Parts and Abilities, and knew what Key opened into the Rich Cabinet of Heavenly Wisdom and Treasures, he excluded Natural Arts

and Parts to be that Key; saying expressely, *The Natural Man receives not the things of the Spirit of God, &c. neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned,* 1 Cor. 2.

14. God, and the Things of God, are known in and by the Spirit: This Spirit Paul Preaches up, not Natural Arts, Parts, and Tongues. Plato, a Heathen Philosopher, said well, *Vertue is not acquired, but infused of God.* A Natural Man, though he have mounted to the Turret of Philosophick Elevations, and may profess himself to be a great Sophist, that is, Wise Man; yet he is ignorant of the saving Knowledge of the Lord, which only comes by the Teaching of the Lord, Rom. 1. 22. Acts 17. 18, 23. 1 Cor. 2. 14.

Holy Men of God, Inspired of God, Taught of God, Replenished with the Vertue, Influence, and Sweetness of Heavenly Wisdom, in the *Patriarchal, Mosaical, and Evangelical Dispensations*, justified the same; and in it, by it, and through it, grew in Clearness of Understanding, distinguishing Persons; so bare Testimony against the old Serpent, and all his Products, his Spoiling Philosophy, Wisdom of the Flesh, introduced into the World, by those Lying Lips that seduced Adam and Eve from their blessed Being and Well-being in the Lord.

Certain Philosophers of the *Epicureans*, and of the *Stoicks*, in the Wisdom of the Serpent,

pent, encountred *Paul*, who was partaker of Divine Wisdom, and called him a *Babler*, *Acts* 17. 18. And how the Divine Wisdom, revealed in the Lovers of Simplicity, is entertained by Philosophers now, this Nation and others afford many Example; yet the Wisdom of the Living God, who are of God, cannot but contend for the pure Wisdom of the Rock of Ages; who said, *Heaven is my Throne, and Earth is my Foot-stool*, *Acts* 7. 42. There are, as Schools distinguish, *Bona Throni*, the Treasures of Heaven, Christ the Repository of Pure, Soul-saving, Soul-refreshing, Life-giving Wisdom and Knowledge; and there are *Bona Scabelli*, that is, the Fruits and Riches of the Earth. Now the Carriage and Deportment of Multitudes is such, that their very Life speaks, that *Earth is their Throne, and Heaven their Foot-stool*; hot in the pursuit of the Earth, the Pleasures and Delights thereof, slighting the Pearl of Heavenly Wisdom. The Duke of *Alva* said, He had so much to do on Earth, that he had no time to look after Heaven. *Trapp* saith, The Frame of the Spirits of Men, bespeaks them to be thus minded, complying rather with the Divinity of *Sardanapalus*, *Ede, bibe, lude, post mortem nulla voluptas*, than with the Doctrine of Christ, who said, *Learn of me*. The before mentioned *Epicureans*, were a Sect of Philosophers, so called from *Epicurus*, who was  
born

born in *Athens*, and lived in the time of *Alexander the Great*, *Ptolomy*, *Lagus*, and *Philadelphus*; he held, that the World came of the Atomes, or Motes of the Sun, that the Souls die with the Bodies, that there is no Providence, that Worldly Pleasure is the *Summum Bonum*, the chiefest Good: These, with other Philosophers, resisted *Paul*.

*Paul*, writing to the Beloved of God in *Rome*, called to be Saints, bare this Record, relating to the Wisdom of the Flesh, and to the Wisdom of the Spirit, *Rom. 8. 6. To be Carnally-minded, is Death*; which being truly translated, is thus, The Wisdom, Desire, or Mind of the Flesh, is Death; but the Wisdom, Desire, or Mind of the Spirit, is Life and Peace; the Wisdom of the Flesh, is Death: And is not Spoiling Philosophy, Lascivious Poems, Comedies, Tragedies, Frivolous Fables, Inchanting Orations, the Subject taught in Schools and Colledges, of the Wisdom of the Flesh? I say, Yes; and that they are Death, and tend to Blind and Fetter Men in Chains of Darknes, in the Dungeon of Death; but the Wisdom of the Spirit gives the Simple a Residence in the fragrant Chamber of Life and Peace.

*Paul* further testified to the Sanctified at *Corinth*, saying, *Christ sent me not to Baptize, but to Preach the Gospel; not with Wisdom of Words, lest the Cross of Christ should be made*



of none effect; for it is written, *I will destroy the Wisdom of the Wise*: Here the Serpent's Wisdom, Affected Eloquence, Pompous and Painted Speech, attained by Satanical Inspiration, or Humane Acquisition, by Study, perusal of Heathen Authors, is decryed; *Not Wisdom of Words*, (saith he) *lest the Cross of Christ*, the Door through which pure, divine, heavenly Wisdom enters the Tabernacle of Man's Heart, *should be made of none effect*. Further saith he, *The World by Wisdom knew not God*; neither doth the World, by its Wisdom now, know God. To what purpose then are Youth, and others, so toiled, for the attainment of that, which is Foolishness in the account of God, and brings not to his Knowledge, 1 Cor. i. 17, 19, 20.

Again, This clear-sighted Apostle of the Lamb, through Divine Eye-Salve, distinguishing between the Grounds, Natures, and Effects of the Wisdom from above, and the Wisdom from below, saith on this wise, *We speak Wisdom among them that are perfect*; yet not the Wisdom of this World, nor of the Princes of this World, that come to nought; but we speak the Wisdom of God in a Mystery, which none of the Princes of this World knew; for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory: Which things also we speak (saith he) not in the words which Man's Wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Spirit

*Spirit teacheth*, 1 Cor. 2. 6, 7, 8, 13. Further, he saith, *The Natural Man knows not the things of the Spirit of God, because they are spiritually discerned*, 1 Cor. 2. 14. The Natural Man, tho' mounted to the very Zenith of Philosophick Notion, and stored with the Quintessence of Flesh's Witnesses, which in very Deed is Wickedness, filled as a well-loaded Vessel, with acquired Arts and Parts; yet being a Natural Man, darkned with the Smoke of Carnal Wisdom, in that State he cannot receive the Wisdom which is from above; in his Eye it is Foolishness; the World and its Wisdom, is a Pearl in his Eye; the harmless Dove of Heavenly Wisdom enters in at another Window, the Cross of Christ, Foolishness to them that perish.

Further, The faithful Ambassador, and true Witness, *Paul*, in the Wisdom of God, bare Record against the Wisdom of the World, saying, *The Wisdom of the World is Foolishness with God*, 1 Cor. 3. 19. *Adam*, in the Wisdom of God, knew God, and the Creation. Now the Serpent, by his Insinuations, working Man into a Compliance with his Will, brought in a Sea of Iniquity and Confusion, a World of Unrighteousness, and a Wisdom favouring of his Nature. Now Spoiling Philosophy, Enchanting Orations, Wanton Poems, Comedies, Tragedies, Fables, are a part of his Wisdom,

dom, taught in Schools and Colledges, so is Foolishness with God, though highly esteemed among Men; *Yet are they Abomination in the sight of God, Luke 16. 15.* I am brought into the Credence of this, that as the Rays of the Sun of Righteousness are displayed in Man, as Heavenly Wisdom is exalted, as Nations become seasoned with the Salt of the Kingdom, these Abominations will become burdensome, yea, and rejected as a Menstruous Cloth; then shall Composers, Printers, Correctors, Stitchers, Binders, Stationers, School-Masters, Tutors in Colledges, that have Traded in this Dead Sea, Dregs of Satanism, turn from their unlawful Concerns, as the Evil thereof is discovered, and justifie the Wisdom that is from above.

Further, This faithful Steward *Paul*, writing to the Saints and faithful Brethren at *Colloss*, exhorteth them; saying, *Beware, lest any Man spoil you through Philosophy and vain Deceit, after the Tradition of Men, after the Rudiments of the World, and not after Christ, Col. 2. 8.* Thus, who keep not in Christ, the Wisdom of the Father, but lend an Ear to the Pagan Philosophick Notions of false Teachers, they are led by them out of the right Path, bound, and Captives: Thus *Paul*, in the Wisdom from above, cautions them to beware of Wisdom from below.

Again,

Again, *Paul* writing to *Timothy*, his own Son in the Faith, exhorts him, to charge some, *not to give heed to Fables, and endless Genealogies, which minister Questions, rather than Godly Edifying, which is Faith*, 1 Tim. 1. 3. 4. Now what a muddy stream of Fables, and Fabulous Poems, Comedies and Tragedies, are gushed into *Christian Schools*; how the Fabulous Pedigrees of the Hea-then Gods, are (as I may say) driven by force of Arms into tender Youth, hopeful, if not depraved and corrupted by *Ethnick Education*, I leave to the Wise in Heart to judge, who have known these things, and the burden of them. Further, he saith to *Timothy*, *Refuse prophane and old Wives Fables, and exercise thy self unto Godliness*, 1 Tim. 4. 7.

The Apostle *James*, writing to the *Twelve Tribes* scattered abroad, draws his Sword (as I may say) against *Serpentine Wisdom*, saying, *If ye have bitter envying and strife in your Hearts, &c. This Wisdom descends not from above, but is Earthly, Sensual, Devilish*, Jam. 1. 14, 15. Mark, *Earthly, Sensual, Devilish*. O that *Christendom* would consider this! in whom the *Hellish Spark* hath not only kindled them into *Strife and Envy*, but to be as a *Prey* to the Mouth of the Sword. *Christendom* is become as *Golgotha*, a place of Skulls; as *Aceldama*, the Field of Blood. The Apostle, writing to the Church, said,



*Ye are taught of God to love one another,*  
 1 Thess. 4. Now where Strife, Envy, and  
 Bloodshed is, of whom are they taught?  
 Even of the Serpent, who was a Murderer  
 from the beginning, the Author of that  
 Wisdom, which is Earthly, Sensual and De-  
 vilish; a true Character of that Wisdom  
 which is from below: It is called *Earthly*,  
 because it arises from the Earth, keeps Man  
 in an unregenerate State, out of Heavenly-  
 mindedness, wholly concerning Man for  
 Earthly Ends; *Sensual*, as wholly concerned  
 in the pursuit of carnal, sinful and tran-  
 sient Pleasures; *Devilish*, as inspired by  
 him, doing his Work, and brings to his  
 End; Wisdom from above Rescues from  
 his Tyranny.

In the Apostles days, such as knew the  
 Lord's Call into the Ministry, they were  
 Stars in Heaven, settled in Heavenly Places  
 in Christ Jesus; they had the Heavenly  
 Key, which opened to them the Royal  
 Cabinet of Heavenly Treasures; they re-  
 ceived no Wisdom, in Church or School,  
 but what was Heavenly. But a Star being  
 fallen to the Earth, (mark this, *to the Earth*)  
 then an Earthly Key was thrust into the  
 hand, even the Key of the Bottomless Pit;  
 then arose a Smoke, which darkned the  
 Sun and the Air: What is this Smoke?  
 Even Serpentine Wisdom, which steamed  
 into Churches and Schools; the gradual  
 rise

rise of this, spoiled the Glory and Beauty of Primitive Christianity. At this Door crept into the Church Traditions, Heresies, Schisms, Doctrinal Errors, Superstition, Idolatry, Pardons, Indulgences, Trentals, Soul-masses, Dirgies, Purgatory, Canonization of Saints; in a word, Devilish Errors were set a broach: *Mahomet* steamed out his *Alcoran* for Divine Scriptures; into Schools steamed also Spoiling Philosophy, Bewitching Orations, Pompous and Painted Rhetorick, Lascivious Poems, Vain Comedies, Foolish Tragedies, Frivolous Fables, Pagan Ethicks, Physicks, and Metaphysicks, whereby Youth is corrupted; as the Sea-Monster, called *Phyfeter*, as Naturalists write, mounts above the tops of Ships, standing upright in the Sea, like a Pillar, and spouts out great Floods of Water, whereby it overwhelms or indangers them: So upon the fall of the Star from Heaven, the Sea-Monster, *Satan*, got up into the Church, and spouted out great Floods of Errors, False Doctrines, and of Earthly Wisdom into *Schools* and *Churches*, whereby they sunk down into the depth of Ignorance, Spiritual Blindness, Idolatry and Corruption; but Heavenly Wisdom is displaying its Power, Vertue and Influence; and Serpentine Wisdom, be it in Church or School, must be scoured away.

## C H A P. IV.

*A Rehearsal of Testimonies, born by several Men, eminent in the Church since the Apostles Days, against Heathen Learning, or the Teaching of it, in Christian Schools, as also of others.*

**B**Y what hath been spoken, 'tis evident, that the Holy Men of God, acknowledged by all to be Inspired of God, bare sound Record, and a living Testimony, in the Wisdom of God, against the Wisdom of the Serpent, the Wisdom of the World; many also who have lived since the Apostles Day, yea, and since the fall of the Star from Heaven, in the gloomy Night of Apostacy, in that measure of Heavenly Wisdom then made known, have born Testimony against teaching Heathen Authors, Spoiling Philosophy, Wanton Poets in Christian Schools or Colledges; yea, and have spoken freely against Universities defiled with the same. In Confirmation of this Assertion, a few Testimonies are presented to the Consideration of the Reader.

*Eusebius* brings in *Plato*, sharply blaming that first Education, as destructive, which was used by the Greeks, in reading the  
feigned

feigned Comical and Tragical Inventions of Poets, *Cap. 49. p. 618.*

As far as I can gather from the Writings of the Ancients, Philosophy is very hurtful unto him that is much addicted to the study thereof, *Job. Pic. Mirand.*

All the Discord of Divines, hath proceeded from Philosophers; for as much as Divines, in later Ages, have mixed the muddy Water of Philosophers with the living Vein of Divine Oracles, *Job. Pic. Mirand.* That is, have mixed Heathen Philosophick Notions, with the Scriptures of Truth. It is known, by lamentable Experience, how dangerous a thing it is to be exercised in the writings of Ethnick Philosophers, and how easily the Plague of Lyes and Vanity creeps through the same into Mens Minds, *Theoph. Gale.*

In the times of the *Hasmoneans*, this Decree was made, Let him be accursed, who teacheth his Son the Philosophy of the Greeks, *Theoph. Gale.*

What but Greek Philosophy was the first Seminary or Seed-Plot of principal Errors in the Churches in the Apostles Days, and in Churches immediately succeeding? Whereupon *Tertullian* called Philosophers the Patriarchs of Hereticks, *Theoph. Gale.*

It is not hard to shew (saith the same Author) that the whole Mystery of Iniquity, and the whole System of Antichristianism,



Christianism, which hath molested the Christian Church, for so many Centuries, ought to ascribe their Rise and Progress to Heathen Philosophy.

There are (saith *Andrew Sympson*) who spend much precious time upon vile Pamphlets, curious Arts, prophane Stories, lascivious Poems, &c.

Most of the Heresies that have been in the Church, have come in by Learned Men, rather than by Ignorant Men. *Ed. Calamy.*

*Jerom*, a Father of the Church, who lived about the Year 384. reading the Book of *Cicero*, was (as 'tis said) rebuked by an Angel, because that he being a Christian, minded the Fictions of the Gentiles. *Jacobus Laurentius de libr. Gentil. pag. 41.*

*Gracian* put out a Canon, That a Bishop should not read Heathen Books. *Jac. Laur. pag. 41.*

*Gregory the Great* (saith *Jac. Laurentius de libris Gentilium*) forbade all Bishops the reading of Heathen Books. *pag. 41.*

Pernicious Books are to be burned; no regard is to be given to the Price of them. *Piscat. on Acts.*

All the Wisdom of a Man is in this one thing, That he know and worship Christ. *Lactant. lib. 3. cap. 30.*

*Ulpian*, the chief Lawyer; *Galen*, the chief Physician; *Porphyry*, the chiefest Aristotelian; *Plotinus*, the chiefest Platonist; were

were profess'd Enemies to Christ, and his Truth. *Trapp.*

*Augustin*, Bishop of *Hippo* in *Africa*, about the Year 399. said, The Unlearned take Heaven by force, but we with our Learning are thrust into Hell.

It repented *Augustin*, that when he was young, he had preached more to please, than to profit others.

Neither the *Jews* by their profound Doctors, nor the *Gentiles* by their Wits and Wizards, could grope out God. *Trapp* on 1 Cor. 1. 21.

The *Greeks* sought after Wisdom, viz. of this World, so shut out Heavenly Wisdom; *Intus existens prohibet alienum*, They attained not what they sought. *Trapp.* 1 Cor. 1. 22.

We that have obtained the Knowledge of God, by and through his Grace, are far more Wise and more Blessed than *Plato*, *Aristotle*, &c. *Piscat.* on 1 Cor. 1.

In a Natural Man there is an Impotency, that is, want of Power, to know and understand Spiritual Things. *Piscat.*

Wisdom, that is of the Flesh, serves the Worldling (as the Ostrich Wings) to make him out-run others upon Earth, and in Earthly Things; but helps him never a whit towards Heaven. *Trapp.* on the *Corinthians*.

*Constantine* the Emperor, suspecting *Julian's* proness to Paganism, sent him to be carefully grounded in Christianity to *Nicomedia*; but he frequented by stealth the company of *Libanius* and *Iamblichus*, Philosophers, who warped him wholly to their bent, which brake out afterwards. *Trapp on Colos. 2.*

In the Year 220. the *Artemonites*, a certain kind of Hereticks, corrupted Scripture out of *Aristotle* and *Theophrastus*, turning all into Questions; as afterwards School-men did, that *Evil Generation of Dung-hill Divines*, as one calleth them. *Trapp on Colos. 2.*

The *Gentiles* could not be saved by their Philosophy, without Christ; and yet not only the Divines of *Cullen*, set forth a Book concerning the Salvation of *Aristotle*, whom they called *Christ's* Fore-runner in Naturals, as *John Baptist* was in Supernaturals; but also some of the School-Doctors, Grave Men (saith *Acosta*) do promise Men Salvation, without the Knowledge of Christ. *Trapp on Colos. 2. 8.*

The Moral Philosophy of Prophane Authors, treating of the chiefest Good, and of the Happiness of Man, and of Vertue, is no other thing than vain Deceit. *Pisc. Colos. 2.*

Seeing we are compleat in Christ, they cominit Folly who have recourse unto Prophane Philosophers.

The deep Theorems of Philosophy (said King *James*) make one learned, but seldom better; and oftentimes worse, meer Atheists. There is an *Arabick* Proverb, *Cum errat eruditus, errat errore erudito*; that is, a Learned Man hath Learned Errors. *Trapp* on *Acts* 17.

*Aristotle* wrote many things most absurdly concerning God, as that he is a Living Creature, that he works not freely, but by a kind of servile necessity; and that therefore he deserves no Praise, sith he doth but what he must do: Yet at *Stutgard* in *Germany* was found a Doctor of Divinity, that preached to the People, that the Church might be sufficiently well taught and governed by *Aristotle's* Philosophy, especially his *Ethicks*. *Trapp* on *Rom.* 1. 21.

To use Heathen Authors for Ostentation, is to make a Calf of the Treasures gotten out of *Egypt*. *Trapp* of Arts.

Many (saith one) through their love to the Tree of Knowledge, lose the Tree of Life.

Papists say, that we may find their Holy Water, and Sprinkling of Sepulchres, in *Juvenal's* Sixth Satyr; their Lights in Sepulchres, in *Suetonius* his *Octavius*; Lamps lighted on Saturdays, in *Seneca's* 96th Epistle; distribution of Tapers among the People, in *Macrobius* his *Saturnals*; Purgatory, in *Virgil's Aeneids*. *Trapp*. Thus proving



proving their Doctrines by Heathen Authors, not by Scripture.

*Averroes*, an *Arabian* Physitian, so madly admired his Master *Aristotle*, as that he said, There was no Error to be found in his Works; that his Learning was the chief Truth, &c. When he died, he cryed out, *Sit anima mea cum Philosophis*, Let my Soul be, where the Philosophers Souls are. *Trapp*.

*Justin Martyr* tells us, That he left his Gentilism upon reading a piece of *Plato*. *Trapp of Arts*.

*Augustin* acknowledgeth, That nothing more cooled his Affections towards that Book, called *Cicero's Hortensius*, than that he found not the Name of *Jesus* in it; and that on this Consideration he was perswaded to the Love of Heavenly Wisdom, and Contemplation of things above. *Trapp*.

The Knowledge of Christ is the only Learning; without which, all other Learning doth but light Men into utter Darknes. *Trapp of Arts*.

As for *Aristotle's* Divinity, which he calls his *Metaphysicks*, whereof he wrote Fourteen Books; It is (saith *Ramus*) the most foolish and impious Piece of Sophistry that ever was written. *Trapp of Arts*.

*Lotamus Lovaniensis* wrote, that there was no other Faith found in *Abraham*, than was found in *Cicero*, a Heathen Philosopher:

Whereas *Abraham* saw my day (saith Christ) and rejoyced ; he walked with God, and was upright ; it was not thus with *Cicero*. Trapp of Arts.

*Latimer* was so wrought upon by *Bilney's* Confession, as that he began to smell the Word of God, and to forsake School-Doctors, and such-like Fooleries, and horrible Barbarism, which had overspread the Eye of whole Christendom. Trapp of Arts.

The Dignity and Study of *Latin*, *Greek*, and *Hebrew*, the Holy Spirit seems to intimate their Continuance in the Church, by the Inscription of Christ's Title on the Cross in those Three Tongues, and the utter Eradicating of all frivolous and fruitless School Quirks, Monkish Dotages, Legendary Fables. Trapp.

The *Romans* one time banished all Philosophers out of their City. *Gel. lib. 15.* Trapp of Arts.

*Licinius* the Emperor, called Heathen Learning, The Plague and Poyson of the Commonwealth. Trapp of Arts.

Pope *Paul* the second, pronounced all Scholars *Hereticks*, and seriously exhorted the *Romans*, not to breed up their Children at School, saying, It was enough if they could read and write. Trapp of Arts.

The Heathen *Romans* having Conquer'd this Nation, and Inhabiting in it for Five Hundred

Hundred Years, as Histories inform us, they erected Schools in this Nation, to teach the *Britains*, and brought in their Heathen Poets, Comedies, Tragedies, &c. into Schools, which, to the shame and corrupting of the Nation, are yet continued.

*Julius Agricola*, a *Roman* Emperor's Lieutenant in *Britain*, taught the *Britains* Civility, and prevailed with Noblemen to breed up their Sons in Liberal Arts, and brought them to affect the *Roman* Eloquence; then they began to imitate the *Roman* Fashions, the Gown, proud Buildings, Baths, and Banquetings, which the foolisher sort call'd *Civility*, but was indeed a secret Art to prepare them for Bondage. *Milton*.

*Edgar*, a *Saxon* King, put forth a Canon, that on Festival Days, every one should abstain from Prophan Heathen Songs, and from Diabolical Games and Pastimes.

Further, he enjoyned, That every one abstain from the reading of Fabulous and Absurd Things, and from Filthy and Blaphemous Ballads: Not well observed now.

I, *Martin Luther*, give notice to all, That on *Monday*, &c. all the Books of the Pope be burned, and of some of his Disciples. He gives a Reason of this thing, saying, That they are mischievous, false, seducing, wicked, &c. *Luth. Tom. 2.*

*Luther*, speaking of Popish Schools and Monasteries, said, This is my mind and

desire, that these Stables of two-footed Asses, and Schools of the Devil, should be levelled with the Ground, or changed into Christian Schools, by a Godly Transformation. *Luth. de Institutione Puerorum.*

Heathen Learning (saith Gell) hath a ravishing and a bewitching Beauty; *capta, capit*, being taken, it is much taking also, and wins much upon Mens Affections: And great danger there is (saith he) lest Men court the Hand-maid, rather than the Mistress; Earthly, instead of Heavenly Wisdom, to their Destruction.

Essential Inward Knowledge, in the secret Understanding, is not from Flesh and Blood, nor from multitude of Books, but by a passive Reception of Divine Things; not by Study, but by Patience and Submission. *Os w. Crollius.*

The Academical Spirit cannot understand the mystery of Intrinsic Teaching, only Humility is capable of Illumination. *Os w. Croll.*

The Schools of the Gentiles have had their time, wherein they have become vain in their Imaginations, being exercised in vain Philosophy, and Opposition of Science, falsely so called; whereof the Apostle Paul admonished true Christians, to take heed they were not deceived by it. Thus saith the Translator of *John Baptist, van Helmont's* Physick Refined, in his Premonition to the Candid Reader.

Fur-



Further, saith he, the Wise Men of the East, by the direction of the Star, came to worship the Child, laying down all their Wisdom at his Feet, for a lively Token, that all true Wisdom was to be received from him, in whom all the Treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge dwells.

Further, saith he, Such hath been the Subtilty of the Fleahly Serpent, that under a Pretence of owning the Name of *Christ*, he hath taken up Paganish Means and Instruments to build withal; calling the Dregs and Dross of Heathen Schools, Hand-maids of Divinity.

*John Baptista van Helmont*, in his *Physick Refined*, said, Logick is so far from leading to the Knowledge of Universals, that it rather thrusts Men down into Errors.

The World (saith this *Helmont*) hath suffer'd it self to be circumvented by *Aristotle*, who boasted of Logick to be the Mother of Sciences.

*Aristotle* (saith this *Helmont*) extolled the method of Disputing, invented by himself; and he takes away all Knowledge from a Man, unless he hath yielded himself to be instructed in Logick.

*Jerom* (on *Psal.* 140. and 143.) doth not unworthily compare the Art of Syllogizing to the Plagues of *Egypt*; and he calls Logical Demonstrations, Dog-like Discourses. *Helmont.*

Schools

Schools (saith this *Helmont*) supposing Logick as necessary, do oppose themselves to the Commands of the Apostles.

I wonder (saith *Helmont*) at the great Blindness of Schools, in so great magnifying Logick.

Let Schools (saith *Helmont*) tell me, what Science Logick hath ever brought to light, whether Geometry, making of Glasse, Printing, Husbandry, Medicine, conducting of Water, of Minerals, of Arithmetick, of Building, or any profitable Science; verily none.

Schools of Logick (saith this *Helmont*) must needs confess, that through Boasting, Deceit and Ignorance, it hath deceived the Credulous World.

To say, that Logical Discourse is very necessary for Divines, to refute the Subtilties of Heresies; that thing (saith this *Helmont*) would be to be Wise above the Apostle, and to commend the Abuses of Schools above the Holy Scriptures; this were to dethrone Gospel-Weapons, and to inthrone Paganism. *Stephen*, by the Sword of the Spirit, and by Heavenly Wisdom, refuted the *Libertines*, *Cyrenians*, *Alexandrians*, *Cilicians*, not by Pagan Logick, *Acts* 6. 9, 10. Christ promised his Disciples, saying, *I will give you a Mouth and Wisdom, which all your Adversaries shall not be able to gain-say, nor resist*, *Luke* 21. 15.

He

He commended them not to Pagan Schools, to *Aristotle*, or *Plato*, or any other *Heathen*, to enable them to refute Heresies, but to his own Gift, his Wisdom, Armour of Proof; his own Sword put into the Hands, enabling for his Work.

We read not, that the Ancient Christians ever taught Philosophy openly, and in Schools; but that they rather gain-sayed it, Pagan. *Gaudentius Theol. de moribus seculi.*

Let any one shew me, (saith this Author) that Philosophy was taught by Christians, in the time of *Justinian*, or before.

Scarce any one can be perswaded (saith this Author) that Christian Emperors would command, that a Heathen Philosopher, in the Capitol of *Rome*, should teach the Opinions of Pagan Philosophers, to Christians; this would have been to introduce, or bring in old Superstition.

*Justin* passed to the Church, because he found no Certainty in the School of *Plato*; he turned from *Plato*, and the rest of the Heathen Philosophers, and addicted himself to the Scriptures of Truth. *Gaudentius de mor. seculi.*

*L. Celius Lactantius* said, I verily cannot call them Philosophers, that study for Wisdom; because by that Study they do not attain unto Wisdom.

*Richard Fitz-Ralph*, called *Armacbanus*, in a Sermon preached before the Pope's Cardinals in the Year 1360. said, Laymen refrain from sending their Sons to the Universities, fearing to have them taken from them; choosing rather to keep their Sons at home, and breed them to Husbandry, than to lose them, by sending them to the Schools.

In a Synod holden at *Guernsey*, 1576. and confirmed by a Synod held there, 1597. for the Estate of *Guernsey* and *Jersey*, it was provided, in behalf of School-masters, That they should instruct their Scholars in the most pure Authors, both for Learning and Language; lest Children, by reading Lascivious and Immodest Writings, should be infected with their Venom; as may be seen in a Book called, *Heylin's Survey of the State of France*.

*Georgius Ederus*, in his *Mateologia Hæreticorum*, greatly inveighs against *Wickliff*, and charges him with saying, That Studies were Vanities brought into the Church, and profits the Church no more than the Devil doth.

In the Days of *Queen Elizabeth*, the Lords of her Privy-Council sent Letters to her High Commissioners in Causes Ecclesiastical, requiring them to write Letters to all the Bishops of this Realm, and to require them to give Commandment, That



That in all Grammar and Free-Schools within their several Diocesses, *Christopher Ockland's* Book intituled, *Anglorum Prælia*, should be taught, in place of some Heathen Poets; saying, The Youth of the Realm receives rather Infections in Manners, than Advancement in Vertue, from the Heathen Poets taught in Schools: They prayed and required, that this might be done, for the Encouragement of the said *Ockland*, and others travelling in the like Studies, and for the removing of Lascivious Poems taught in Schools. The Names of the Lords of the Privy-Council, as also of her High Commissioners in Causes Ecclesiastical, as also their Letters, are to be seen at the beginning of the Book, called *Anglorum Prælia*: The aforesaid Commissioners directed their Letters to all the Bishops of the Queen's Dominions of *England* and *Wales*, for the accomplishment of the aforesaid.

Men have neglected Sound, Savoury, and useful Matter, the very Quintessence of Learning, and have devoted themselves to an excess of fine speaking. Bishop *Wilkins* Real Character.

The grand Imposture of Phrasing, hath eaten out all true Learning. Bp. *Wilkins*.

*Cæsar Caracalla* so doted upon the Name of *Alexander*, that he was highly offended, that a lewd Murtherer, called

*Alexander*, should be questioned for his misdemeanour, saying, Accusest thou *Alexander*? Unless thou be silent concerning *Alexander*, thou art an undone Man. Beware, lest in loving the Name of Philosophy, ye embrace Philosophy with its Errors. Orat. Doct. Ran.

*Tertullian* said, That Heresies are propagated by the *Platonists*, by the *Stoicks*, by *Epicures*, by *Heraclitus*, by *Zeno*, by *Aristotle*, by Worldly Wisdom. Orat. Ranoldi.

*Ludovicus Vives*, *Picus Mirandula*, *Hieronymus Savonarola*, taught, That Christians were not to read *Aristotle* and *Plato*, except very warily. Orat. Ranoldi.

From the Philosophy of *Plato* and *Aristotle*, pestilent Errors first of all invaded, and have long possessed, and at this day do waste the Christian Church. Orat. Ranoldi.

The World is so bewitched by the Delusions of Satan, that the Errors of Philosophers, through vain and rotten Distinctions, are defended of those called Christians, in their Publick Assemblies; hereby they have brought it to pass, that the Faith of Christ hath no residence in the Hearts of many who profess him.

*Augustin*, in his Confessions, accounts *Terrence* a Comical Poet, unworthy to be read; and blames Grammarians for teaching of it. Orat. Ranoldi. This is accounted  
a deli-

a delicate Dish now in Schools, though professing Reformation.

Philosophers of old stained the *Greek* Church with various Errors; in this our day, they have polluted all *Italy* with their mischievous Opinions; and I wish it were but *Italy* only. *Orat. Ranoldi.*

Far be it from us (saith *Jerom*, who lived about the Year 384.) that omnipotent *Jupiter*, *Mecastor*, and other Monsters, rather than Gods, should be heard out of the Mouth of a Christian. *Orat. Ranoldi.* And scarce any other thing rings in Schools now.

In the *Nicene* Council of chosen Cardinals, they called it a Grand and a Destructive Abuse, that Professors of Philosophy taught Wickedness in publick Schools. *Orat. Ranoldi.*

Under the Name of *Nature* (saith *Augustin* of old) Enemies of Grace lie hid: So in our days, under the Name of *Philosophy*, the Enemies of Faith lie hid. *Orat. Ranoldi.*

Where *Aristotle* reigns, there Ungodliness hath great Dominion. *Orat. Ranoldi.*

What other thing did *Julian* the Apostate, when he endeavoured to sweep Christian Religion from off the face of the Earth, than provide that those Opinions should be taught, defended, and declaimed in Schools, which gain-said Christianity. *Orat. Ranoldi.* *Maxi-*

*Maximinus*, a Tyrannical Emperor, who reigned about the Year 336. was blamed by *Eusebius*, because he gave way, or wished, that those things should be taught and learned in Schools, which were contrary to sound Godliness. *Orat. Ranoldi.*

How foul a thing is it, that that may be spoken against you, which *Ambrose* spoke of the *Arians*, they have deserted the Apostle, and they follow *Aristotle*? *Orat. Ranoldi.*

No Honour nor Regard was given to the Art of Poetry before : Moreover, it was accounted so Infamous, that if any Man was inclinable to the Study thereof, he was called a Robber. *Polydor lib. 1. cap. 8.*

*Hadrian Saraviab* informs us, That the Primitive Christians had no Academical Schools, like to these now a-days : Yet there was one at *Alexandria*, where they read only Divinity.

We read not of any Universities among the *Waldenses*, *Albigenses*, and *Bobemians* ; for most of their Ministers were Tradesmen.

Christians in the Primitive Times found Sophisters and Philosophers to be the principal Enemies of Christianity : Upon this account, they condemned all Heathen Learning, they condemned Comedies and Tragedies, and other Poetical Writings ; judging, they did not conduce to solid Knowledge. *Herrald. animad. in Arnob.*

*Tertullian*



*Tertullian* judged, that School-masters professing Learning, were guilty of great Idolatry, because they only explained Names and Genealogies, and Fabulous Acts of Heathen Gods. *Tertul. de Idolatr.*

We see (saith *Gracian*) that the Priests of the Lord, neglecting the Gospel and the Prophets, they read Comedies, and love Verses out of *Bucolicks*, they pursue *Virgil*; and what is a sin of inforced necessity in Children, is become their delight: Doth he not seem to walk in Vanity, and Darknes of Mind, who vexes himself Day and Night in the Study of Logick, and charges his Memory with the distinct Knowledge of Verses?

*Petrus Bellonius* saith, That there were many Christians in *Greece*, but few Learned Men among them; because they esteemed not of it as of necessity to Christianity. In their Libraries were several Manuscripts of Divinity; but no Historian, nor Philosopher, nor Poet, for these, were Anathematized.

Neither the *Greeks*, nor the *Pickards*, nor *Waldenses* in *Bohemia*, did value Learning. *Luth. de Institutione Puerorum, fol. 444.*

It was an Article exhibited against *John Hus*, Condemned at *Constance*, who suffer'd as a Martyr, That Graduations and Doctorships in Universities and Colleges, then in use, did conduce nothing  
to,

to the Church of Christ. *Fox's Acts and Monuments.*

Colledge-Doctors have for their Arms the Book with Seven Seals: And why? Because they are skill'd in the Seven Liberal Art; which is Absurd and Foolish, if not Blasphemous: As though the Seven Liberal Arts, as Grammar, &c. could open the Book with Seven Seals; 'tis the Lamb only.

The Council of *Carthage* had an express Canon against the reading of Heathen Authors. *Conc. Carth. Dist. cap. 37.*

*Gregory*, though a Pope, burnt several Lascivious Authors, as *Cardan* tell us, *De sap. lib. 2.*

In like manner *Gregory Nazianzen*, the Father, suppressed several Greek Authors as *Diphiles*, *Apollodorus*, *Philemon*, *Alexis*, *Sappho*, &c.

*Machivael* testifies, That the first Promoters of Christianity commanded all Poets and Historians, which treated of the *Geniles* vain Conversation and Worship, to be burned. *Mach. Disp. lib. 2. cap. 5.*

'Tis written by one in the Life of *Jerome*, that he was a great Student in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, Caldean, and Syrian Tongues, and much in love with *Tully's* Eloquence; being in a Fever, he was brought in the Spirit to the Judgment Seat of Christ; being examined, he said

He was a Christian; the Judge replied, Thou seemest to be rather a *Ciceronian*, than a Christian; for where thy Treasure is, there is thy Life also: On this occasion *Jerom* rejected Heathen Books and Fables, unprofitable and vain Studies; writing to Pope *Damasus*, he reprov'd Ecclesiastical Persons, for neglecting Holy Scriptures, and spending their Time in Heathenish Books and Fables.

Men of unquestionable Worth (saith *Dell*) seeing the Evil of Spoiling Philosophy, have spoken freely against Universities stained thereby: *Wickliff* tells them, *Castra Cainitica*, that is, *Cain's Castle*, *Satan's Synagogues*; affirming, that they were never instituted by Christ.

*John Hus*, or *Ortko Brunselfius*, if he set out the Contents of the Chapter, calls them *Satrapas Antichristi*, the Lieutenants of Antichrist.

*Luther*, in his Book against *Ambrosius Catharinus*, saith, That Universities are an open Gate of Hell, and that therein the most choice Youth of Christian People are prostituted, and cast into the open Throat of Hell.

Further, he saith, That whosoever first instituted and confirmed Universities, he was a Star fallen from Heaven to Earth, from the Gospel of Christ to Humane Learning.

*Melancthon*

*Melancthon* termed the Universities, *Houses of Lyes*; saying further, That Students in Universities, are not People of the Gospel, nor yet of the Law, but are the People of *Aristotle's Morals*.

*Object.* These spoke against Popish Universities, and they are otherwise now.

'Tis true (saith *Dell*) the outward Form of gross Popery is taken away from them, as from the Nation; yet the inner part of it remains as before, the self-same Statutes of the Universities remain in force, which were first given by Popish Founders. Again, The same Philosophy of Heathenism is instilled now into Youth, as in the darkest Days of Popery; the self-same Outward and Antichristian Forms and Follies still remain as in the darkest of Popery, even unto their Hoods, Caps, Scarlet-Robes, Doctrinal Rings, Gloves, their Doctoral Dinner and Musick.

To this day, presently after their Divinity Acts, (saith this *Dell*) they have their Prevaricator; a notable Varlet, picked out of the Universities, who in the presence of all the Heads, Students, Scholars, and the great resort of Ministers and People at their Commencement; Abuses, Derides, and Jeers all sorts of Persons, of all Ages, Sexes, and Professions; such Works of Levity were never allowable among the Holy Men of God. Christ said, *Have Salt in*



*your selves*, Heavenly Wisdom; with which those that are seasoned, cannot but favour and comprehend such things to be unfavoury.

*Justin Martyr* lived about the Year 150. He (as 'tis related in his Dialogue with *Trypho*) first joyned himself to that Sect of Philosophers, called *Stoicks*, after to the *Peripateticks*, after to the *Pythagorean Sect*, after to the *Platonists*; being Converted, he wholly left his Philosophy, and Philosophical Apprehensions, and betook himself to the Scriptures.

*Constantine* the Emperor took care, that the Scriptures might be taught to People; judging it most meet, that Christians should be instructed in the Faith of Christ, and not in Heathenish Philosophy, *Euseb. lib. 4.*

Through this *Constantine*, the Sufferings of the Church vanished; then Christians grew more Carnal and Secure, even in his Days, and began to seek after spoiling Philosophy; yet in all Ages, God had some Witnesses against it.

*Berno*, who lived in the Year 1008. Being furnished with all sorts of Learning, said, That he for many Years had rejected Poetical Fictions, Heathen Historians, Worldly Learning, as Dung, and was wholly minded to search out Heavenly Things. *Berno in Epistola ad Magnifred.*

*Zuinglius*

*Zuinglius* in his Youth was exercised in all sorts of Learning: In the end he intreated the Lord to vouchsafe him his own Light; saying, What he had learned before from Philosophers, procur'd him much trouble; and he rejected Philosophy, and counted it as Dung. *Zuingl. de veritate Verbi.*

Schools and Universities were at first corrupted, by declining the pure Word of the Gospel, and entertaining Philosophy and Heathen Authors. *Dell.*

*Matthias Parisiensis*, a *Bohemian* by Nation, about the Year 1580. wrote a Book against *Antichrist*; wherein he affirms, That *Antichrist* had deceived and misled all Universities and Colledges of the Learned, so that now, *saieth he*, they teach no sound thing, neither give they true Light unto Christians by their Doctrine. *Illeryc. Flair. Catal. Test. Veritat.*

*Antichrist* (saith *John Hus*) hath drawn Men aside from the Wisdom of God, replenished with Salvation, and with the Holy Spirit, to the Prudence and Wisdom of Men, and of the Princes of this World. *De Antichristo, cap. 30.*

*Martin Luther* said, Whoever it was, whether *Alexander of Hales*, or *Thomas Aquine*, who first instituted Universities, he was a Star fallen from Heaven to Earth. *Luth. de Captiv. Babylon.*

*Abbas*

*Abbas Joachim Calaber*, about the Year 1230. in his Commentary on *Jeremy*, speaks to this purpose, That the first Angel, mentioned in *Revelations* the ninth, opens the Bottomless Pit, and brings forth Philosophy into the Church; and out of the Smoke of this Doctrine, proceed Locusts; and these Locusts, *said he*, are Schoolmen and Masters, who sometime use Flattery to deceive, sometime Rigor to subvert the Simple and Unwary.

The Lord stirr'd up *Julian* (saith he) to put down Heathen Learning in Christian Schools, that it might appear, that as the true Christian Religion is not helped by Humane Learning, so neither is it hindred by the want of it. *Rainold*, in his Orations, saith the contrary of this *Julian*; but Times and Ends being considered, they are easily reconciled.

The Queen of the *South* neglecting the *Magi*, Philosophers, Heathen Wise Men, came from the utmost parts of the Earth to hear Wisdom of *Solomon*; but Schools and Universities leave Christ, greater than *Solomon*, in whom are all Treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge, and seeks Knowledge from the Heathen, as *Aristotle*, *Plato*, &c. *Dell*.

*Socrates Scholasticus* saith, That for Christians thoroughly to imbibe the Learning of the Heathen, it can no way advantage  
Christian

Christian Religion; for it is not without danger, for Christians to be instructed in Heathen Learning, because it teacheth a Plurality of Gods, that there are many Gods, *lib. 3. cap. 14.*

My Advice is (saith *Luther*) that Youth shun Philosophy and School Divinity, as the Death of the Soul. *Tom. 2. fol. 434.*

It is an Error to say, that a Divine is not made without *Aristotle*, rather a Divine is not made, unless that be done without *Aristotle*. *Luth. Tom. 1. fol. 10.*

I truly judge, that our *English-Man Wickliff* was a Wise Man; who first of all, as far as I know, saw that Universities were Satan's Synagogues. *Melancthon.*

Seeing Christ instituted not those Universities (saith *Wickliff*) or Colledges, it seems evident, that they, as Graduations in them, are vain Heathenism brought in; in token of this, both Collegiates and other Graduates seek themselves. This *Wickliff* was Master of *Baliol-Colledge* in *Oxford*. *Wickliff in speculo Militantis Ecclesiæ, cap. 26.*

We must make inquiry of Schoolmasters, and other Professors of Learning, teaching Heathen Gods, their Names, Genealogies, and Fables: Yea, we need not doubt, but that they are guilty of Idolatry of divers sorts. *Tertul. de Idolatr.*



A Christian School-master, by his frequent reading of Poets, Defilements of Idols, he seems to allow of these things.

*Regaltius in Tertullianum.*

*Socrates* drove out of the City lewd Demons, and Atchievers of Naughtiness, handled by Poets; and he taught Men to hunt *Homer*, and other Poets; and he exorted them after the search of the Living God, whom they were ignorant of. *Justinus pro Christiani apologio prima.*

Abstain from all Heathen Books, saith *Clement Romanus*; saying further, What is wanting in the Law of God, that thou should'st apply thy Mind unto Heathen Fables? *Lib. 1. cap. 6.*

What Madness possesses the Minds of Men, that they should regard *Jupiter*; whom they do not only know to be an Ungodly Man, Wicked, Profane, Whorish, Patricide; but also sing to him on the Stage? The Ancients denied these things; but now, through a pretence of instructing Youth, the Knowledge of these things is so incorporated in tender and simple Minds, as that the same can scarce, by any way or means, be rid out of them. *Recognit. Clement. lib. 10.*

*Augustin*, Bishop of *Hippo*, commanded Poetry to be driven out of the City of God; so also did *Ethnick Plato*, out of his Common-wealth: *Cicero* forbad the same

same to be entertained. *Cor. Agrip. De van. Scient.*

*Augustin* called Heathen Poetry the Wine of Error, drunk of drunken Doctors.

*Ferom* called it the Meat of Devils.

Logick is nothing but the Art of Con-  
vention and Darknes, whereby all other  
Sciences are made more obscure, and more  
hard to be known. *Cornel. Agrip. de vanitate  
Scientiarum.*

Almost all the Rabble of Scholars, busied  
in the Inventions of Philosophers; or So-  
phisters, seems to do no more, than learn  
to commit Error, and to make the Truth  
more obscure, or to lose the same. *Cornel.  
Agrip. de vanitate Scientiarum.*

Queen *Elizabeth* enjoyned, That School-  
masters should accustom their Scholars re-  
verently to learn such Sentences of Scrip-  
ture, as should be most expedient to in-  
duce them to all Godliness.

*Tindal* a Martyr, said, Whosoever or-  
dained Universities, be it *Alexander* of  
*Hales*, *Thomas Aquinas*, or any other, he  
was a Star fallen from Heaven to Earth;  
for there are brought in (saith he) Mo-  
ral Vertues for Faith, Opinions for Truth;  
and said, They were a confused Cloud.  
*Tindal of the Revelation of Antichrist.*

## C H A P. V.

*A Memento to School-masters and Tutors, to turn from Heathen to the Godly and Christian Education of Youth; as also, of the Rise of Christian Schools, and how the same came to be corrupted.*

**N**OW, O School-masters, and Instructors of Youth, in Schools and Colledges! Let me come nearer unto you; 'tis not Schools, but Corrupting, Spoiling, and Depraving Abuses therein managed, I speak against.

Cicero could say, We cannot any wise do the Common-wealth more service, than by teaching and instructing Youth; provided (saith he) it be in the Knowledge of the Lord, of his Creation, of savoury and necessary Things, and useful Accomplishments.

Let me tell you, I oppose not Teaching, or Learning of Languages, as of Latin, Greek, or Hebrew, &c. Knowing there may be a service therein, for the management of Foreign Transactions, and Negotiations, and Correspondence with other Nations: But it being that all savoury and sound Knowledge relates *primarily* to God, *secondarily* to the Knowledge of the Creation, and of the useful and necessary Im-

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ployments.

ployments. My Testimony is, That Children should be instructed in the aforesaid, in the fear of the Lord, it being the Door of Heavenly Wisdom.

How precious were it, if their Souls, like *Gideon's Fleece*, did drink up betime the Pearly Dew of Divine Grace and Heavenly Verrue. 'Tis honourable (saith *Ambrose*) for Youth to be found in the fear of the Living God; 'tis the Devil, his Books, and his Wisdom, which is Earthly, Sensual, and Devilish, I speak against; if in learning of Languages, useful, profitable and necessary matter were learned, a double advantage would accrue unto the Learner: Cannot Languages be learned, except in the Devil's Books and Arts?

I testifie, that all Lascivious Poems, Wanton Comedies, Vain Tragedies, Frivolous Fables, Inchanting Orations, Spoiling Philosophy, Pagan Ethicks, Physicks, and Metaphysicks, now taught in *Christian Schools*, are the muddy streams of the Lying Spirit, and to be denied by serious Christians.

You may read, that the Patriarchs before the Law, taught their Children and Households, *to walk in the ways of the Lord*; they taught them not Heathenism, nor Serpentine Inventions, *Gen. 18. 17, 19.*

Under the *Mosaical* Dispensation, the *Prophets* had Schools, wherein they taught Youth the Knowledge of the Lord, the

Book



Book of *Moses* and the *Prophets* then ex-  
tant ; they taught no *Heathenish* Learning,  
no *Egyptian* Philosophy, nor the *Smaragdine*  
*Table of Hermes Trismegistus*, during the  
continuance of that Ministration.

*Oh that there were such an Heart in Israel,*  
(said the Lord) *to fear me, and to keep all*  
*my Commandments always, that it might go*  
*well with them, and with their Children for*  
*ever, Deut. 5. 29.*

Solomon, wise in the Wisdom of God,  
said, *Train up a Child in the way he should*  
*go, and when he is old, he will not depart from*  
*it, Prov. 22. 6.* He should go in the Way  
of Holiness, in which the Ransomed of the  
Lord walk, with Songs of Deliverance in  
their Mouths : Children are to be trained  
up in the Lord's Way ; not in Heathenism,  
Serpentine Inventions, Heathen Philosophy,  
Lascivious Comedies and Tragedies, Frivo-  
lous Fables ; these things are in the Devil's  
way : I saw it in the Glass of Immortality,  
in the Sin-discovering Dispensation of the  
Almighty, that such as teach these things,  
they are Satan's Cooks, preparing a deadly  
Dish ; Satan's Butlers, making Youth drunk  
with the Cup of Abomination and Fornica-  
tion ; a rusty Channel, through whom a  
stream of Folly enters into those commit-  
ted to their Charge ; which nothing but  
a Divine Rod can drive out, *Prov. 22. 15.*

David, the sweet Singer of Israel, enquired, saying, *Wherewith shall a young Man cleanse his Way?* In taking heed thereto, according to thy Word, Psal. 119. 9. He commends young Men to the Word, the Word of Faith, of Patience, of Reconciliation, of Vivification, that they may be cleansed and purified thereby; he commends them not to Paganism, Ethnick Education, Spoiling Philosophy.

The Lord (saith the holy Man of God) *established a Testimony in Jacob, and ordained a Law in Israel, which he commanded our Fathers, that they should teach their Children; that Children which should be born, should stand up and declare it to their Children,* Psal. 78. 5, 6. The Testimony and Law of the Lord, was to be propagated and taught to Young and Old in that Dispensation, the Wisdom of God, which causes the Face to shine, and fills the inward Parts with joyful Melody; not Serpentine Wisdom, the Wisdom of this World, the Dictates of the Infernal Dragon, drowning Men in Perdition.

Further, The Lord said, *Learn not the way of the Heathen,* Jer. 10. 2. Now all Heathen Philosophy, Ethicks, Physicks and Metaphysicks, Heathen Poets, Comedies, Tragedies, and Fables, are the way of the Heathen, so not to be learned; the Language of the Serpent to be rejected. When Israel was stained with the Inventions of the  
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the Heathen, the Lord raised Complaints against them, *Psal.* 106.

As the holy Men of God, in the *Patriarchal* and *Mosaical* Dispensations, through the Shield of Faith, fenc'd out the Wisdom of the Flesh: So in the *Evangelical* Dispensation, the Disciples and Apostles of the Lamb kept the same, and laboured in the Vertue and Strength of Divine Abilities, committed to them, to bring them to *Christ*, the Magazine, Repository, and Store-house of Heavenly Wisdom and Knowledge.

Christ Jesus (saith *Hospinian de Origine Scholarum*) instituted the first Academy in the *New Testament*, and called Twelve Disciples, whom he diligently instructed in Heavenly Doctrine; he taught them no Heathen Philosophy, nor Traditions of Men.

After the Resurrection of Christ, the Apostles being well confirmed in his School, and furnished with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, went out into the World, according to Christ's Command, and commended unto others what they had learned of Christ, *Hospinian. Mat.* 28. 19, 20. *Go, and teach all Nations, &c. Teaching them to observe all things, whatsoever I have command you: What, and only what they received from Christ; That, and only that, they were to teach others; but no Heathen Philosophy, nor Traditions of Men, dropped out of*

their Mouths ; but their living Concern was, to bring them to learn of Christ, the Wisdom of God, and to witness Salvation, and Eternal Life through him.

Further, *Paul* said to *Timothy*, *What things thou hast heard of me, in the presence of many Witnesses, the same deliver to faithful Men, which shall be able to teach others also*, 2 Tim.

2. 2. *Hosp.* But we read not, that *Timothy* taught Heathen Philosophy to any ; which plainly demonstrates, that *Timothy* received no such thing from *Paul*, tho' he had been brought up at the feet of *Gamaliel*.

Further, *Paul*, who had the *mind of Christ*, writing to Fathers, in the behalf of Children, said, *And ye Fathers, provoke not your Children to Wrath, but bring them up in the Nurture and Admonition of the Lord*, Eph. 6. 4. Not in wanton Poets, Comedies, Tragedies, Fables, the ways of the Heathen.

The Primitive Bishops or Elders (saith one) had tender regard unto the Children of Christians, and taught them, as well as the People, the Knowledge of God in Christ ; and rejected vain Philosophy, and Traditions of Men, till the Mystery of Iniquity began to insinuate it self among them, by the means of Humane Learning. A School in *Alexandria* was instituted, not very long after the Apostles Days ; for about the Year 182. one *Pantenus*, brought up among the Heathen-Stoick Philo-



Philosophers, moderated that School; whereby the Doctrine of Christ quickly spread over the face of the Earth, exercise in Scripture flourished among them; at length he travelled as far as *India*, to confirm them in the Faith of Christ, *Euseb. lib. 5. Hospinian*, we read not that he bred them up in Heathen Philosophy, Poets, Comedies, Tragedies, Fables, &c.

Afterwards (saith this *Hospinian*) Monasteries were built through *Europe*, not through an Opinion of any Merit, or through any Superstition, neither that they should be Stews of lewd Fellows; but that they might be as Schools, in which not Children only, but such as were grown up, might be instructed in Piety, Religion, and Heavenly Doctrine; so to be capacitated for Convincing, Converting, and Building up of others in the saving Knowledge of the Lord.

But as *John* foresaw a Star fall from Heaven unto the Earth, to whom the Key of the Bottomless Pit should be given, and that a Smoke should arise out of the Pit, Erroneous Doctrines, Humane Traditions, Heathen Learning, Spoiling Philosophy, whereby the Sun and the Air should be darkned, the Purity of the Primitive Church, and of Schools, should be spoiled, *Rev. 9.* Now, as this was fulfilled, the Study of true Divinity (saith this *Hospinian*) began

began by little and little to grow cold, to be abolished, and altogether to vanish in these Monasteries or Schools ; then they invented new Opinions concerning Merits, Invocation of Saints, of the Pope's Supremacy, of Purgatory, of Transubstantiation ; this School-Divinity taking root and spreading, the Minds of the simple were intangled and insnared ; the Placeats or Opinions of the *Roman Popes*, the Writings of *Aristotle*, his Metaphysics, &c. had ingress into Schools. Thus Heavenly Wisdom being turned from, the Smoke of the Pit, Earthly Wisdom, Heathen Learning steamed into the Churches and Schools, through which to this day they are clouded, stained and corrupted.

But in reference to the Divinity-School of *Alexandria* ; By little and little it so degenerated, and lost the Heavenly Savour, as that there hath not been (saith the Author of the Book called the *Naked Truth*) a greater Plague to Christian Religion than School-Divinity ; from which sprung forth Damnable Heresies, overspreading all *Christianity*.

Whence did *Paulus Samosetanus* derive his Venemous Heresies against the Son of God, but from *Plotinus*, and his *Philosophick Disputations* in the School of *Alexandria* ?

Did not *Arius*, a Presbyter of the Church of *Alexandria*, imbibe or drink up his Blasphemy

phemy against the Divinity of Christ, out of the Divinity-School of *Alexandia*, about the Year 300? From him sprung the *Arians*, who over-ran all *Christendom*.

*Origen* also, and after him *Pelagius*, derived their Pestilent Errors against the Grace of God out of the same School.

Thus after the Apostles times, the Wisdom from above being turned from, the Wisdom that is from below being entertained in Churches and Schools, the Apostacy and Fall from the primitive Order, Life, and soundness in Doctrine and Conversation, was brought forth.

If the Pattern of the Primitive Church, rooted and grounded in Heavenly Wisdom, Heavenly Philosophy, (saith *Theoph. Gale*) had been observed, neither *Origen*, nor *Arius*, nor *Pelagius*, nor *Socinus*, nor the *School-men*, nor any of that Company, had been overwhelmed in so many Monstrous Errors.

Many of the Primitive Doctors and Fathers (saith the Author of the Book called the *Naked Truth*) being converted from Heathenism, greatly skill'd in Natural Philosophy, Antiquity, History, Subtil Logic, or Sophistry, were unwilling to abandon their long-studied and beloved *Sciences*, so called; so translated them into *Christianity*, applying their School-Terms, Distinctions, Syllogisms, to Divine Matters; so defaced Christian Knowledge.

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Thus

Thus, through the steaming in of *Heathenism* into Church and School, the pure, sound, savoury Education of Youth in the Knowledge of the Lord, was lost; and a depriving, spoiling, corrupting Education entred in, out of lewd Poems, Comedies, Tragedies, Fables, Spoiling Philosophy, continued yet in *Christendom*. I doubt not (saith our Country-Man *Dell*) but some Men shew more care and pains to teach a Colt to Pace and Amble, than they do to instruct their Children to walk in the way of God's Commandments.

Further, You Masters in Schools and Colledges, who instruct Youth in *Prophane* Authors, Arts and Sciences, as the Lamp of Eternity is lighted in you, you will see you have been dancing after the *Pope's* Pipe, yea, after the *Serpent's* Pipe, the Author of *Heathenism*.

You may read, that in the time of the *Saxon* Heptarchy, *Austin* the Monk, with others, came from *Rome* into this Nation; and the Faith, and School-Education of *Papal Rome* was received by the *Saxons*, so that many Authors came into our Schools, by and through them, which are yet continued.

*Sigebert*, King of the *East-Angles*, having learned in *France* the manner of their Schools, with assistance of some Teachers out of *Kent*, instituted after the same Discipline,



cipline, the University of Cambridge, then first founded about the Year 630. This *Sigebert* afterward changed his Royal Robe for a Hood.

About the Year 668. by means of *Theodore*, a learned Greekish Monk of *Tarsus*, whom Pope *Vitalian* had ordained Bishop of *Canterbury*, the Greek and Latin Tongue, with other Liberal Arts, as Arithmetick, Musick, Astronomy, &c. began first to flourish among the Saxons, saith *Milton*.

By the Council of Four Monks, Scholars of *Bede*, (saith *Dell*) to wit, *Rabanus*, *Albinus*, *Claudius*, and *John Scotus*, the University, which had been translated from *Athens* to *Rome*, was translated by *Charles* the Great from *Rome* to *Paris*, about the Year 791.

Thus *Cambridge* was made an University by King *Sigebert* of the *Romish Faith*, and the Lectures there were begun by Four Monks; Fryar *Ode* read Grammar, *Tericus* read *Aristotle's* Logicks, Fryar *William* read *Tully's* Rhetorick, *Dilsebert* read Divinity to them on Sundays and Saints-days, so called.

About the Year 895. King *Alfred*, thro' the perswasion of Monk *Neotus*, made *Oxford* a publick University, and appointed Maintenance for the Professors of Learning there; as saith *Georg. Lilius* in *Chron. Britt.*

After both these places of Literature were made or confirmed Universities in *Edward* the First his time, by the Court of *Rome*, as *Robert Remington* affirms.

The very Names of the Colledges discover their Founders, as *Christ's Colledge*, *Jesus Colledge*, *Immanuel Colledge*, *Trinity Colledge*, *Corpus Christi*, that is, *Christ's-Body Colledge*, and one in *Oxford* for the help of all Dead Souls, and for their Rescue out of Purgatory, called *All Souls Colledge*. Now how these Collegians shew forth the Spirit of Christ by their Fruits, and how their Deportment is to such as in Faith and Patience wait for the Kingdom of Christ, and the Righteousness thereof; or whether they be as the Lily among the Thorns, or as the Thorns, I leave another Pen to discover.

Universities, to gain the greater profit to themselves, give divers Degrees and Titles, as *Bachelors of Arts*, *Masters of Arts*, *Bachelors of Divinity*, *Doctors of Divinity*; whereby (saith *Dell*) they gain Honour, Reverence, and Reputation, among all that are under the Delusion of Antichrist: True it is, *A principio non ita fuit*; 'Twas not so from the beginning, till the Star fell from Heaven to Earth, and the Smoke arose out of the Pit, darkning Sun and Air, these things were not; in Seven Years, in Universities they are Masters of Art, as an Apprentice is Master

Master of his Trade, having served Seven Years: Papists made their Ministers in these places, as the Protestants do now; the Philosophy there taught now, is the same that the Heathen *Roman* Emperors set up; they caused to be taught Grammar and Logic, and most of the Seven Arts, as now.

The Vice-Chancellor admitting a Bachelor of Divinity to his Degree, uses these words, *We admit thee to preach all the Apostolical Epistles, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Spirit.* But,

Admitting a Doctor of Divinity to his Degree, he saith, *We admit thee to preach all the Sacred Scriptures, both of the Old and of the New Testament, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, cap. 20. de Ceremoniis in gradibus Conferendis.* Zuinglius.

In the Primitive Times, such as were called of the Lord, they waited for Heavenly Abilities, to be capacitated to beget others into the Life of Righteousness, and to build them up in the most Holy Faith; they did not ambitiously affect Titles out of the God-serving Life; the *Pharisees* were guilty of this, as formal Christians were. After the ingress and inroad of Apostacy, Zuinglius on *Mat. 23.* said, Thou here hearest, that the Titles of *Masters* and *Doctors*, are not of God, because Christ forbids this thing; and those Titles  
that

that are not of God, nor of Christ, they are of Antichrist; so to be denied by such as are Branches of the true Vine. Further, *Wilson*, in his *Compleat Christian Dictionary*, said, That ambitious seeking after Titles ought to be eschewed.

*Object.* In the Apostles days there were several Titles, as Evangelists, Apostles, Prophets, Pastors, Doctors.

*Ans.* True it is; but these, and the rest made use of, or mentioned in the *New Testament*, were significant Names, Names of Office, besitting and expressing the Work they were called unto, and concerned in, as I might particularize; as for *Doctor*, it might more properly be translated *Teacher*; so a Name of Office. *Wickliff*, touching this thing, said, A Name of Office differs much from the Name of a School Degree, brought in by the Heathen. *Wickliff* in *Sermone Domini in Monte*.

While the Primitive Purity, Life, Power, Faith, and Order was kept, he that ministered, he was to do it out of the Ability which God gave, *1 Pet. 4. 11*. The Power of the Ministry was derived from the pure Spring of Divine Ability; but this Ability being lost, Schools were erected, Heathen Learning was entertained; where Men are Qualified now for the Ministry, this muddy Lake, open in *Rome*-Heathen, steamed into Apostatized *Rome*-Christian, drunk up  
in



in Protestant Countries and Kingdoms now.

To draw to a Conclusion, You Teachers of Schools and Colledges, it being that the spacious Fabrick of the World being finished, *God looked upon every thing that he had made, and behold it was very good, Gen. 1. 31.* Were it not more God-like, more Christian-like, to instruct Youth in the Knowledge of God, whom to know is Life Eternal, and in the Knowledge of his Works, being very good, and useful and necessary things, than in the Knowledge of Heathen Arts and Sciences, brought in by the Serpent, which in every Age and Generation, the Holy Men of God, yea, and such as have lived in the Mid-night of Apostacy, with some Glimpses of Divine Light in their *Goshen*, bare Testimony against, as the fore-mentioned Testimonies, with others that might have been subjoyned, sufficiently evidence?

*David*, in the Wisdom of God, said, *The Works of the Lord are wonderful, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein, Psal. 111. 2.* Such as have pleasure in the Lord, cannot but have pleasure in his Works. Now you that make Heathenism your Concern, you neither have pleasure in the Lord, nor in his Works, which are very good.

Further,

Further, *David*, in the Consideration of the Lord, broke out, saying, *Lord, how manifold are thy Works ! In Wisdom thou hast made them all ; the Earth is full of thy Riches : So is the great and wide Sea also, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great Beasts*, Psalm 104. 24, 25. If Man should live the Days of *Metbuselah*, who lived Nine Hundred Sixty Nine Years, yet is the Lord, the Book of Life, and the Book of Creation, sufficient for his Observation : I tell you in downright Terms, the Lord made Man to eye him, and his Creation ; but the Serpent dislocating Man, brought him to eye him, and his Products, *viz.* Comedies, Tragedies, Fables, Spoiling Philosophy, Pagan Ethicks, Physicks, and Metaphysicks ; so see what you do, and where you are.

*Rainold*, in his *Oration*s, said, He is to be accounted a Wise Man, who knows things that are profitable ; not he that knows many things.

Now if Languages must be learned, were it not more Christian-like, that out of Latin, &c. Books for that purpose provided, Children and Youth read the Natures of Trees, Birds, Beasts, Fish, Serpents, Insects, Earths, Metals, Salts, Stones, vulgar and precious ; as also Rules for Gardening, Agriculture, Grazing of Cattel, Buildings, Navigation, Arithmetick, Geography,

graphy, Chronology, sound History, Medicine, knowledge in Law, improvement of Lands, Chyrurgery, Traffick Government, ordering of Bees, propagation of Plants, by Roots, Seeds, Slips, Layers, Suckers, by Grafting, Inoculating, Imping, and of Geometry, which one *Proclus* ascribes to the *Egyptians*, who (the River *Nilus* now and then overflowing, confounding and disordering their Landmarks) found out the use and benefit of Geometry; by means of which, every one came to be settled in their former and proper Right? I say, were it not more Christian-like, that Children and Youth were instructed in the Knowledge of the Lord, of his Creation, and of necessary and useful things, whereby they might be qualified for the help, benefit, and advantage of others, in their respective Generations, than to be trained up in Lascivious Poems, Wanton Comedies, Foolish Tragedies, Frivolous Fables, Heathen Orations, Pagan Philosophy, being the Language of the old Serpent, and of the Smoke which darkned Sun and Air, after the Primitive Times? Certainly (saith *Baptista van Helmont*, in his *Physick Refined*) I could wish, that the Spring of Young-Men might not hereafter be seasoned with such Trifles and Lying Sophistry, they would learn in the Seven Years, Arithmetick, Mathematicks,

maticks, Geography ; with the Circumstances of Seas, Rivers, Springs, Mountains, Provinces, Minerals ; the Property and Custom of Nations, Plants, Living Creatures, &c.

So, by way of Recapitulation, let me tell you, The Knowledge of the Lord, of his Creation, and of useful and necessary things, I own, and desire propagation thereof ; seeing in measure Man's State and Concern, before *Abbadon*, *Apollyon*, the Destroyer, prevailed ; but the Knowledge introduced by the Old Serpent, his Wisdom, his Poems, his Comedies, Tragedies, Spoiling Philosophy, Heathen Ethicks, Physicks, Metaphysicks, as depriving and corrupting Youth, I utterly deny. Take the Testimony of the Reformer, *Martin Luther*, who said,

' It is a serious thing, a weighty thing, that Youth be instructed in a Godly and in a Christian manner.

Object. *Didst not thou teach all usual School-Authors ? How comest thou thus to inveigh against them ?*

I Answer, True it is, I taught these things, being deeply plunged in the Waters of *Marah*, Waters of Bitterness ; but I found no Peace therein, but always entering into the Chamber of Seriousness, and communing with the Lord in his Dispensation of Grace to me committed,  
I found



I found the Mouth of Heaven open against them, I saw them as the full and loathsome matter of an Ulcer, as the Waters of *Babylon*, transporting into the Region of the shadow of Death, Spiritually a dead Sea, in which no Man can live unto God; and though I used them, after I knew them to be evil, I had no peace therein, but waited for a Deliverance, desiring of the Lord I might not die therein, in that Heathenish Muddy Concern; but he delivered me from the Bewitchings of that *Dalilah*: In secret Retirements, spiritual Resignation, the Abomination and Inchantments of the aforefaid is more and more discovered: I have put off that Coat, and have entertained a Resolution, never more to put it on; I have washed my Feet, how shall I be defiled therewith? You that are bound with the Delights, Bewitchings, or Profits of Heathenism, of the Seven Liberal Arts, or of any Inventions of the Serpent, as *Sampson* was bound with Seven Green Withs, which he broke as a Thread of Tow, when it toucheth the Fire; I tell you the Truth, as it is in Jesus. As the Light which shines in Darkness, arises out of Darkness, and clears your Understandings, and gives you the Knowledge of the Excellency of Heavenly Wisdom, and of the danger of the Wisdom from below; in the Lustre of  
this,

this, -and in Heavenly Strength received in it, you will break afunder the Seven Green Withs of the Bewitching Delights of Heathenism, of Heathen Learning, and bear Testimony for an Education of Youth in the Knowledge of the Lord, and of the Creation, and of necessary things, expedient for the accomplishment of Youth for lawful and honest Service in their respective Generations, wherein, as the Lord opens a Door, and Encouragement is given, I am ready to be serviceable; being raised to that Hope, that *Babylon* must fall; as in the Particular, so in the General, and her Merchants cease Trading in her proud Wares; and that the Knowledge, which is Heaven-bred, must cover the Earth, as Water covers the Sea; and that the Wisdom which is from below, must be scoured away, as Clouds before the Wind: So be wise, and not Pillars to support that putrified Structure, which the Lord is risen to overturn: 'Tis not Learning, but unlawful Learning; not Schools, but Abuses and Corruptions thereinto crept, that this Testimony is against, as the Intelligent Reader may understand.

C H A P. VI.

Lastly, *A few Queries soberly proposed to the Consideration of such as teach Heathen Authors in Christian Schools.*

1. **I**F Adam and his Posterity had kept the State of Innocency, whether ever had we had wanton Poets and Poems, Lascivious Comedies, Feigned Tragedies, Frivolous Fables, Spoiling Philosophy; yea, or nay?
2. Whether it ought to be the Concern of School-masters, as of Ministers, to eradicate, or propagate, what was introduced by the Author of the Fall?
3. Whether to have Teachers in every Parish, *Vi & Armis*, as by Force of Arms, to drive Heathenism into Youth, be the way to eradicate the same?
4. Whether Man was not created to eye his Creator, and the Creation?
5. Whether the Serpent, prevalent over Man, laid not the Foundation of another Kingdom?
6. Whether Wanton Poems, Lascivious Comedies and Tragedies, Frivolous Fables, Spoiling Philosophy, taught in Schools, be not the Language of the Kingdom?
7. Whether it be not a shame to Christian Schools and Colledges, that Languages cannot,

not, or are not, taught without being beholden to the Heathen?

8. Whether wanton Poems, Comedies, Tragedies, Fables, Spoiling Philosophy, were taught to Youth in the Primitive Church, before the fall of the Star from Heaven?

9. Whether wanton Poems, lascivious Comedies, Tragedies, Fables, spoiling Philosophy, be not of the Smoke that arose out of the Bottomless Pit, which darkned the Sun and Air?

10. Whether wanton Poems, Comedies, Tragedies, Fables, spoiling Philosophy, be not of the Foam of that Sea, which the Beast arose out of?

11. Whether the Lord, and his Works, which are Wonderful, be not sufficient to take up the short Age of Man?

12. Whether wanton Poems, Comedies, Tragedies, Fables, spoiling Philosophy, be not of that Knowledge which puffs up, brought into the World, through the Breath of Satan's Bellows?

13. Whether wanton Poems, Comedies, Tragedies, Fables, spoiling Philosophy, were ever kindled in Christian Churches, before the old Serpent kindled them, by the Breath of his Bellows?

14. Whether lascivious Poems, Comedies, Tragedies, Fables, spoiling Philosophy, be not of that Wisdom, which is Earthly, Sensual and Devilish?



15. Seeing all the Treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge are in Christ, are they not deluded who seek the same at *Aristotle's* Mouth, or any other Heathen?

16. Whether wanton Poems, Heathen Comedies, Tragedies, Fables, Spoiling Philosophy, and Idolatrous Traditions, be not Dregs of the Cup of Abomination and Fornication, wherewith Kindreds, Tongues and People, were, and are made drunk?

17. Whether such as teach these things in Schools and Colledges, be not the old Serpent's Cooks, preparing a deadly Dish?

18. Whether such as teach these Heathen things, be not eating the forbidden Fruit?

19. Whether it be not Idolatry to teach, That *Mars* is the God of War, *Bacchus* the God of Wine, *Apollo* the God of Wisdom?

20. Whether Teachers of a Plurality of Gods, be not Transgressors of the Law of *Moses*, and of the Gospel?

21. Whether *God-fathers* and *God-mothers*, so called; that vow that such and such Children, shall *forsake the Devil, and all his Works, Poms and Vanities*; yet concern themselves for their Education in lascivious Poems, Comedies, Tragedies, Fables, spoiling Philosophy, be Vow-keepers, or Vow-breakers?

22. Whether such as are concerned in Teaching wanton Heathen Authors, are not concerned to keep that alive, which Christ comes to destroy?

23. Whether such as teach Heathenism in Schools or Colledges, do not labour to keep the Sun and Air darkned by the Smoke of the Pit ?

24. What is the great Star, called *Worm-wood*, which fell upon the Rivers and Fountains of Water ? And what are the Waters made bitter, whereof many died, mentioned ? *Rev. 8.*

In Learning of Languages, Wholsome, Sound, Savoury, Useful, and Necessary Matter being Learned, a double Advantage (as was said before) accrues to the Learner.

*decent puerum; fædis ea temperat ætas  
A vitiis puerum nil nisi pura decent,  
Virtutum dulces pueris infunde liquores  
Et mores ætas promet adulta bonos.*

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F I N I S.



John Smith Jun<sup>r</sup> 1865

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